REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM FUND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

Right Click and Select *Change Picture* to Insert Image.

Size your picture to 8in x 5in, with your subject in the center.
The Council’s mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region

Metropolitan Council Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alene Tchourumoff</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Edward Reynoso</td>
<td>District 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Rodriguez</td>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Marie McCarthy</td>
<td>District 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lona Schreiber</td>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>Sandy Rummel</td>
<td>District 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Munt</td>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Harry Melander</td>
<td>District 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Barber</td>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>Richard Kramer</td>
<td>District 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Elkins</td>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>Jon Commers</td>
<td>District 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Dorfman</td>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>Steven T. Chávez</td>
<td>District 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary L. Cunningham</td>
<td>District 7</td>
<td>Wendy Wulff</td>
<td>District 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cara Letofsky</td>
<td>District 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

On request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats to people with disabilities. Call Metropolitan Council information at 651-602-1140 or TTY 651-291-0904.
# Table of Contents

1. Introduction .................................................................................................................. 1
2. Purpose .......................................................................................................................... 1
3. Regional Parks Implementing Agencies ........................................................................ 1
4. Regional Parks System Funding .................................................................................... 1
5. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) .............................................................................. 1
6. Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (PTLF) ............................................................. 1
7. Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) ................................................................. 1
8. Regional Parks Bonding Program ................................................................................ 2
9. Interest earnings .......................................................................................................... 2
10. Set-Aside Competitive Equity Grant Program .............................................................. 2
11. Annual Review ............................................................................................................ 2
12. Administrative Guidance ............................................................................................ 2
13. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) ........................................................................... 3
14. Funding Source .......................................................................................................... 3
15. Allocation .................................................................................................................... 3
16. Eligible costs and activities ......................................................................................... 3
17. Required Match ......................................................................................................... 3
18. Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (PTLF) .......................................................... 5
19. Funding Source .......................................................................................................... 5
20. Allocation .................................................................................................................... 5
21. Eligible Projects and Costs ......................................................................................... 5
22. Amendments .............................................................................................................. 6
23. Unspent Funds ............................................................................................................ 6
24. Required Match ......................................................................................................... 6
25. Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) Program .................................................. 7
26. Funding Source .......................................................................................................... 7
27. Allocation .................................................................................................................... 7
28. Eligible Projects and Costs ......................................................................................... 7
29. Amendments .............................................................................................................. 7
30. Revenue from Nonrecreational Uses ......................................................................... 8
31. Unspent funds ........................................................................................................... 9
32. Required Match ......................................................................................................... 9
33. Regional Parks Bonding Program .............................................................................. 11
34. Funding Source .......................................................................................................... 11
35. Allocation .................................................................................................................... 11
36. Eligible Projects and Costs ......................................................................................... 11
37. Amendments .............................................................................................................. 12
38. Unspent funds ........................................................................................................... 12
39. Future Reimbursement Consideration ....................................................................... 12
40. Interest Earnings ........................................................................................................ 15
41. Funding Source .......................................................................................................... 15
42. Allocation .................................................................................................................... 15
43. Eligible projects and costs ......................................................................................... 15
44. Set-Aside Competitive Equity Grant Program ............................................................. 17
45. Funding Source .......................................................................................................... 17
46. Allocation .................................................................................................................... 17
47. Eligible projects and costs ......................................................................................... 17
Introduction
The Metropolitan Council (Council) administers a variety of funding sources and grant programs for the betterment of the Regional Parks System. These funds are awarded or passed through to the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies (Agencies). Legal requirements for these programs vary, and the Council is responsible for ensuring compliance with all relevant requirements. Agencies are responsible for knowing and complying with their grant agreements, which may specify additional funding requirements.

Purpose
The Minnesota Constitution, Minnesota Statutes, and the Regional Parks Policy Plan articulate the structure for the funding sources and programs that the Council administers. This document establishes the Council’s policies and priorities for the use of Regional Parks funds.

Regional Parks Implementing Agencies
Minn. Stats. § 473.351 limits regional parks funding to Regional Parks Implementing Agencies (Agencies) and defines them to be:
• Anoka County
• City of Bloomington
• Carver County
• Dakota County
• Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board
• Ramsey County
• City of Saint Paul
• Scott County
• Three Rivers Park District
• Washington County

Regional Parks System Funding
Operation and Maintenance (O&M)
The state of Minnesota appropriates money under Minn. Stats. § 473.351 for the cost of providing for the operation and maintenance of waters, lands, and facilities that are part of the Regional Parks System.

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (PTLF)
The Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Section 15 established the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (PTLF) to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF)
The Council established the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) to assist Agencies in acquiring land for the Regional Parks System. The PAOF comprises state and regional funding sources in two separate accounts:
• The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund / Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PTLF/PAOF) account funded by state Legacy dollars and regional park bonds. Minn. Stats. 85.53 requires that the Council match every $3 in PTLF land acquisition funds with $2 in regional park bonds.
The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund / Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (ENRTF/PAOF) account funded by ENRTF dollars and Council funds. The Council matches every $3 in ENRTF funds with $2 in Council funds for Regional Parks System land acquisition.

**Regional Parks Bonding Program**

There are two funding sources that are part of the Regional Parks Bonding Program:

- Regional park bonds issued by the Council for the Regional Parks System.
- State bonds (usually general obligation bonds) appropriated for the Regional Parks System.

Per the [2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan](#) and Council’s Capital Financing Policy, the Council matches every $3 of state general obligation bonds with $2 of regional park bonds.

**Interest earnings**

Under legislation passed in 2015 ([Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session, Chapter 4](#), Article 4, Section 138), the Council shall use the interest that the Council accrues on regional parks funding “for the use and betterment of all regional recreational open space lands under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council.” The Council will develop a strategy for using the interest earnings in 2019 and update this policy as needed.

**Set-Aside Competitive Equity Grant Program**

In the [2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan](#), the Council made a commitment to use Council bonds to create, fund, and administer a set aside competitive equity grant program for projects explicitly aimed to strengthen equitable usage of the Regional Parks System. The Council will develop the Set-Aside Competitive Equity Grant Program in 2019 and update this policy as needed.

**Annual Review**

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission is responsible for reviewing and recommending any needed changes to this Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy to the Council at least annually. With the recommendations of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, the Council is responsible for reviewing the content of the Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy at least annually and formally adopting any amendments to the Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy as needed.

**Administrative Guidance**

More detailed information and instructions on subrecipient processes and procedures can be found in the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide. This document is under development and will be completed in 2019.

The following sections outline funding priorities for each funding source and program.
Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

The state of Minnesota appropriates money under Minn. Stats. § 473.351 for the cost of providing for the operation and maintenance of waters, lands, and facilities that are part of the Regional Parks System.

Funding Source

The state of Minnesota appropriates money the Council disburses to the Agencies to pay for a portion of the cost of providing for the operation and maintenance of waters, lands, and facilities that are part of the Regional Parks System. This money has come from two sources:

- State appropriations from the General Fund (Minnesota Statutes, section 473.351)
- “Lottery in lieu of sales tax” (Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.94(h)(3))

Allocation

The Council distributes all Operation and Maintenance funding to the Agencies according to a formula based in Minn. Stat § 473.351:

- 40% based on each agency’s proportion of total regional system visits as estimated in the Council’s annual use estimates
- 40% based on each agency’s proportion of total regional system operation and maintenance expenditures in the previous calendar year
- 20% based on each agency’s proportion of total regional system land acreage, with park reserve resource management land divided by four and excluding the acreage under any facilities the Council considers inconsistent with Recreation Activities and Facilities – Strategy 1 of the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan including enterprise facilities

Eligible costs and activities

See the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide for a complete list of eligible and ineligible costs and activities.

Costs cannot be associated with activities or programming inconsistent with Recreation Activities and Facilities – Strategy 1 of the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Additionally, activities within enterprise facilities, defined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan as facilities that are expected to generate sufficient revenues to cover their own costs such as golf courses, downhill ski areas, and water parks, are not eligible for Operation and Maintenance funding. These facilities are not eligible for regional park funds from the Council because enterprise-fund recreation facilities are expected to raise money for their development and operation in the same way as their private sector counterparts.

Required Match

There is no formal required match although these appropriations fund only a portion of operation and maintenance expenses.
Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (PTLF)

In 2008, Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, which created a new 3/8ths cent state sales tax to be collected from July 2009-June 2034 to fund the restoration, protection, and enhancement of Minnesota wildlife; protect clean water; pay for parks and trails; and preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage through arts and cultural programs. The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, one of four Legacy Amendment Funds, supports parks and trails of statewide or regional significance.

Funding Source

The Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Section 15 established the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (PTLF) to support parks and trails. Per Minn. Stat. § 85.53, this fund supports only parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. Along with state and Greater Minnesota regional parks and trails, the Council receives a portion of the Parks and Trails Legacy appropriations for the Regional Parks System.

Allocation

The Council distributes Parks and Trails Legacy Funds to the Agencies according to a formula defined in Minn. Stat. § 85.53:

- 45% based on each implementing agency’s share of Operation and Maintenance funding according to the allocation formula in section 473.351, subdivision 3;
- 31.5% based on each implementing agency’s relative share of the most recent estimate of the population of the metropolitan area;
- 13.5% based on each implementing agency’s relative share of nonlocal visits based on the most recent user visitation survey conducted by the Metropolitan Council; and
- 10% set aside for Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (see more on p. 7).

Eligible Projects and Costs

Consistent with the Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Section 15, authorizing state statutes (including Minn. Stat. § 3.303), and the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, all projects submitted for funding from Parks and Trails Legacy Funds must:

- Be within parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.
- Be consistent with the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, the foundational document for the use of PTLF in the state, which specifies four strategic directions for use of all Legacy funds:
  - Connect People and the Outdoors: Develop stewards of tomorrow through efforts to increase life-long participation in parks and trails.
  - Acquire Land, Create Opportunities: Create new and expanded opportunities to serve current and future users.
  - Take Care of What We Have: Provide safe, high-quality experiences through regular re-investment in infrastructure and natural resource management.
Coordinate among Partners: Enhance coordination among the network of public, private, and nonprofit park and trail partners.

- **Be within the boundaries of the Regional Parks System** (for capital projects only – that is, acquisitions, development, and conservation)
  - Outreach activities outside the boundaries of the Regional Parks System are allowable if the Agency can demonstrate a direct tie between the outreach activities and use of the Regional Parks System.

- Be consistent with the **2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan**.

- Be consistent in timing, scale, type, and cost with a **Council-approved master plan** prior to the Council awarding a grant agreement.

- **Supplement, not substitute for, traditional sources of funding.** To ensure compliance with the requirements, projects funded with PTLF funds must:
  - start new projects or programs;
  - continue projects or programs without substituting Legacy funds for other funds; or
  - expand or accelerate projects through the addition of Legacy funds.

- Be substantially consistent with the project descriptions and dollar amounts **approved by each Agency’s elected body.**

- Have been reviewed by the regional park implementing agency using the **equity toolkit.**

- Have been **prioritized** by the regional park implementing agency in response to local capital and programmatic needs.

Agencies may use their Parks and Trails Legacy Fund allocation for land acquisition, supplementing the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund although the Council does not match these funds.

**Amendments**

The Council will consider amendment requests. See the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide for further information on amendment requests.

**Unspent Funds**

Any funds remaining after completion of the listed projects may be spent by the Agencies on projects to support regional parks and trails consistent with the requirements above.

**Required Match**

None.
Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) Program

Grants from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) assist Agencies in acquiring land for the Regional Parks System.

Funding Source

The Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) program has two funding sources:

- Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (PTLF): 10% of the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations are set aside for land acquisition through the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Program (PAOF).
- Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The ENRTF acquisition opportunity grant fund is comprised of direct appropriations received by Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for land acquisition. The LCCMR establishes the requirements for ENRTF funding, including funding used as part of the PAOF program.

For both programs, the Council matches every $3 in state funding with $2 from Council funds. Minnesota Statutes, section 85.53, subd. 3 requires the match for acquisition funding from the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund; the Council has chosen to match ENRTF funding for consistency.

Allocation

The Council’s Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant program is non-competitive and awarded based on funding availability.

The Council awards grants on a first-come, first-served basis with the order determined by when the Council determines that a grant request is eligible and complete.

Each Agency is eligible for up to $1.7 million in PAOF funding per state fiscal year from each of the two accounts, provided the total of appropriated funding and associated Council match is sufficient to fund an acquisition within a single state fiscal year. The maximum amount that each Agency can receive from the PAOF program is $3.4 million per fiscal year. Large, single acquisitions cannot be split across fiscal years to promote geographic disbursement of PAOF funding throughout the region. Agencies can use both PAOF/ENRTF and PAOF/PTLF in a single acquisition to access the full amount of PAOF dollars allowable (see the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide for additional requirements that may be involved with acquisitions using both funding sources).

Eligible Projects and Costs

Consistent with authorizing state statutes and the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, all grants from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (both programs) must acquire property that is and will be:

- **Within the boundaries of the Regional Parks System**
- Consistent with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan or subject to an amendment to 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan to designate the land as regional recreation open space
- Consistent timing, scale, type, and cost with a Council-approved master plan or a Council-approved acquisition master plan
- Located fully within Council-approved master plan boundaries prior to the Council awarding a grant agreement.
- Reserved for public use in perpetuity for the Regional Parks System

Consistent with authorizing state statutes and the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, all grants from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund / ENRTF have additional requirements that the property acquired:
• Meets all of the criteria above;
• Is undeveloped and has no habitable residences;
• Follows the requirements of LCCMR;
• Contains high-quality natural resources that provide multiple benefits and natural buffers to water resources;
• Has a Council-approved master plan that contains an ecological restoration and management plan;
• Is listed, by parcel, on a workplan that the Council submitted to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR);
• Is not already be held in the public domain, unless the purchase:
  o Creates additional, direct benefit to the protection, conservation, preservation and enhancement of the state’s natural resources; and
  o Has been approved by LCCMR prior to acquisition.

When funds are not available in the PAOF accounts, Agencies may choose to work with third parties to temporarily acquire and hold eligible properties, for which the Agency may pursue a PAOF grant at later date from the Council to complete the acquisition process.

Eligible costs for the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund are expenses directly related to the land acquisition. See the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide for a complete list of eligible and ineligible costs and activities.

**Revenue from Nonrecreational Uses**

Lands acquired with regional funds are to be used for Regional Parks System purposes. On occasion, usually during but not limited to a period prior to development, land may be used in various other ways. The Council has defined the following nonrecreational uses as consistent with Regional Parks System purposes:

• Sale of buildings, equipment or materials acquired with land
• Rent or lease of buildings to protect structures or secure services for the park, and
• Rent or lease of land for park benefits

All uses of this kind must be consistent with the Council-approved master plan. Revenue that regional park implementing agencies receive from such uses may be used in regional park lands for land stewardship or for the capital costs of providing recreation opportunities. Otherwise they will be returned to the Council. Any other use requires prior Council consent.

Revenue from recreation uses in Regional Parks System units consistent with the Council-approved master plan shall be used for park purposes as determined by the regional park implementing agency. Revenues generated by nonrecreational uses in regional park lands, consistent with a Council-approved master plan, shall be used in regional park lands either for stewardship or for the capital costs of providing regional recreation opportunities, unless the Council consents to another use.

Regional park implementing agencies shall make an annual report of such revenues when their revenues exceed an amount determined by the Council ($2,500 per year). Unused nonrecreational revenues will be returned to the Council by the end of the year succeeding the one in which they are earned.
Unspent funds
Under the PAOF program, acquisition grants fund “up to” 75 percent of the total estimated acquisition costs. Therefore, grantees may not reallocate any unspent PAOF funds.

Required Match
Agencies must fund at least 25% of the total estimated acquisition costs as local match, including all ineligible costs and all costs over $1.7 million per account, per year. If, during the course of an acquisition, an Agency exceeds its upper limit of $1.7 million for either or both PAOF funding accounts, the Agency may need to pay more than 25% of the total acquisition costs as its local match. In this case, both the 25% regular local match and the amount in excess of the regular local match may be reimbursable through the same procedures for future reimbursement consideration. See the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide for a complete list of how Agencies may provide and must document their local match. See more about future reimbursement consideration on p. 12.
Regional Parks Bonding Program

The Regional Parks Bonding Program is intended for Regional Parks System acquisition, development, and redevelopment projects.

Funding Source

Two primary funding sources make up the Regional Parks Bonding Program:

- The Council can issue Regional Parks bonds under authority of Minnesota Statutes, section 473.325.
- The State of Minnesota can issue bonds appropriated for the Regional Parks System by state statute or session law.

Per the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan and Council’s Capital Financing Policy, the Council matches every $3 of state general obligation bonds with $2 of regional park bonds.

Allocation

The Council distributes Regional Parks Bonding Program funds to the Agencies according to a formula defined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan:

- 70% based on the population within the jurisdiction of each park implementing agency compared to the region’s total population.
- 30% based on the number of visits a park agency hosted from people who live outside the park agency’s jurisdiction (non-local visits).

Eligible Projects and Costs

Development in Regional Parks System units should be based on the principle of providing and maintaining quality public park areas and facilities primarily for residents of the metropolitan area. The eligibility criteria (not in any priority order) for development, rehabilitation and restoration of regional parks, park reserves, trails, and special recreation features are:

- Projects that provide new facilities, rehabilitate facilities, or increase capacity where there is documented existing or projected high use.
- Projects continuing a phased high-priority project or one of relatively high priority that is timed with other public improvement projects to achieve significant economies in cost of construction.
- A project providing a specific facility that meets a documented need, is currently not available, or is significantly under-represented in the system.
- Regional trails that connect to other trails or regional facilities or extend existing trails.
- Natural resource restoration, including transforming degraded lands into lands with more representative native species and historic vegetation patterns. For example, this work may entail the removal of invasive species, restoration of pastureland, or transforming industrial lands into a more diverse natural landscape.
- Acquisition of parkland parcels or reimbursement for parkland parcels.
- Matching non-state and non-Council funds to develop/rehabilitate recreation facilities or restore natural resource areas is encouraged.
- Projects that provide essential facility improvements and natural resource enhancements to allow for the initial public use of a regional park once there is adequate demand and acquisition base to support the development.
Consistent with authorizing state statutes and the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, all grants from the Regional Parks Bonding Program (both programs) must fund projects that:

- Are within the boundaries of the Regional Parks System
- Are consistent with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan,
- Are consistent in timing, scale, type, and cost with a Council-approved master plan prior to the Council awarding a grant agreement.
- Comply with all applicable bonding laws.
- Have been approved by their local elected boards either individually or as part of a local capital improvement plans.
- Have been reviewed by the regional park implementing agency using the equity toolkit.
- Have been prioritized by the regional park implementing agency in response to local capital needs

Based on the prioritized project lists submitted by the Agencies, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission recommends a list of projects to be included as part of the Governor’s state bonding request to be submitted to the State Legislature.

Eligible costs can include land acquisition, construction, and other improvements or acquisitions of tangible fixed assets of a capital nature. Capital grants funded entirely with Council bonds may also be used to reimburse Agencies for acquisitions or projects under certain limited circumstances (see the section on Future Reimbursement Consideration on page 12). See the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide for a complete list of eligible and ineligible costs and activities.

Amendments

Amendment processes are actively under review. The Council will not consider amendments to executed grant agreements for projects funded with state general obligation bonds at this time. See the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide for further information on amendment requests.

Unspent funds

At grant closing, any unspent state bonds and matching Council bonds funds are no longer available to the project, cannot be reallocated to other Agency projects and are relinquished to the Council or the state, depending upon the funding source.

Future Reimbursement Consideration

Defined the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Future Reimbursement Consideration (FRC) allows Agencies to request Council approval to incur costs, pay those costs from Agency funds, and be eligible for later reimbursement with Council bonds. Future reimbursements of local match are made out of the Agency’s share of a future regional bonding allocation.

MPOSC and the Council must individually consider and approve all requests for Future Reimbursement Consideration before costs are incurred. The Council’s approval of Future Reimbursement Consideration does not represent or guarantee that the future reimbursement will be paid; rather, the approval only allows the Council to consider reimbursement of the costs at a later date. The Council is not obligated to provide such reimbursement. The Council must balance the availability of these reimbursements against the overall need for Council bonds in a given Regional Parks Bonding funding cycle. If the aggregate request for Future Reimbursement Consideration exceeds the Council’s ability to match at the prescribed level, the Council may decline any Future Reimbursement Consideration request.
Agencies can request Future Reimbursement Consideration to reimburse their costs for:

- Portions of an Agency’s local match to the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund if the Agency specifically requests that the Council consider future reimbursement of the local match amount as part of its Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund grant application;
- Reimbursement for acquisition of land not designated in the *Regional Parks Policy Plan* at the time of purchase but subsequently added to the system through a plan amendment;
- Reimbursement of design costs for large or complex recreation facilities in Regional Parks;
- Reimbursement of eligible costs as part of its share of a future Regional Parks Bonding allocation.

Requests for Future Reimbursement Consideration for land acquisition, in addition to meeting all requirements for Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund listed above, must be submitted in writing to the Council before the Agency or Third Party acquires the property in fee simple or acquires an option to purchase. Requests for Future Reimbursement Consideration for construction or development projects (including design costs), in addition to meeting all requirements for the Regional Parks Bonding Program listed above, must be submitted in writing to the Council before the preparation of construction documents for a project. See the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide for procedures and a complete list of eligible and ineligible costs and activities.
**Interest Earnings**

The Council will develop a strategy for using the interest earnings in 2019 and update this policy as needed.

**Funding Source**

Under legislation passed in 2015 (*Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 138*), the Council shall use the interest that the Council accrues on regional parks funding “for the use and betterment of all regional recreational open space lands under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council.”

**Allocation**

To be determined in 2019 and potentially annually beyond.

**Eligible projects and costs**

To be determined in 2019 and potentially annually beyond.
Set-Aside Competitive Equity Grant Program

In the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, the Council made a commitment to use Council bonds to create, fund, and administer a set aside competitive equity grant program for projects explicitly aimed to strengthen equitable usage of the Regional Parks System. The Council will develop the Set-Aside Competitive Equity Grant Program in 2019 and update this policy as needed.

Funding Source

This program will use Council bonds to promote equitable use of regional parks and trails by providing bond-funded grants for acquisition, development, or redevelopment projects in the Regional Parks System.

Allocation

To develop this grant program, the Council will work in close collaboration with regional park implementing agencies, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and other partners to formulate criteria and measures for awarding grants to regional park implementing agencies for capital projects for development and redevelopment aimed to strengthen equitable use.

Eligible projects and costs

All restrictions on the use of Council bonds outlined on page 11 above apply.