

**Regional Parks Funding Allocation (DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION)**

Section/Number:	3-xxx-xxx	Total Pages:	2
Dept. Responsible:	Regional Administration and Community Development	Effective Date:	
Special Note:		Last Revision Date:	
		Last Review Date:	
		Revision No.	

**I. Policy**

The Metropolitan Council shall abide by state statute, session law, the *Regional Parks Policy Plan*, and the Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy when allocating funds received from the State of Minnesota for the regional recreation open space system established and governed by state statute as well as any direct state appropriations for parks or recreational purposes.

**II. Purpose of policy**

This policy provides a framework for the Council's adoption, upon the recommendation of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, of the Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy separate from the *Regional Parks Policy Plan* and establishes the responsibilities and expectations for the allocation of funding received from the State of Minnesota for the Regional Parks System.

**III. Background and reasons for policy**

The State of Minnesota provides funding for the Regional Parks System. These funds and any Council matching funds are allocated to the following programs:

- Operation and Maintenance (O&M), appropriated by the state of Minnesota under [Minn. Stat. § 473.351, subd. 3](#) for the cost of the operation and maintenance of waters, lands, and facilities that are part of the Regional Parks System.
- Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (PTLF), established under the [Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Section 15](#) to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.
- Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) assists Agencies in acquiring land for the Regional Parks System with 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 per [Minn. Stat. § 85.53](#)
  - The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund / Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund (ENRTF/PAOF) account, funded by ENRTF dollars.
- Regional Parks Bonding Program: State bonds appropriated for the Regional Park System.
- Direct earmarked appropriations to local government jurisdictions, including the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies, counties, cities, or townships.
- Other programs as directed by the Council.

**IV. Implementation/Accountability**

The Regional Administrator shall establish the framework and accountability for the effective implementation of the policy.



The Council shall publish the Regional Parks Funding Allocation policy, the Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy, and the Regional Parks System sub-recipient administrative guide on the Council's website.

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.

*Revision/Review Tracking*

Date	Revision No.	Review Only – No changes
	1	