

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: September 4, 2018

Subject: Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Project Proposals for State Fiscal Years 2020-2021

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes 85.53 and 473.351; *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Finance Strategies 1, 3, & 5*

Staff Prepared/Presented: Deb Streets Jensen, Senior Parks Finance Planner (651-602-1554)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None – this Information Item prepares Commissioners to vote on the suite of Parks and Trails Legacy Fund project proposals for state fiscal years 2020-2021.

Background

History of the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (Legacy) was established in 2008 through an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that increased the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent through 2034. Of the revenue raised by the sales tax increase, 14.25% is allocated in odd-numbered years to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance; the Legislature is scheduled to allocate funding in the 2019 session. Currently, 40% of Legacy funds are allocated to the metropolitan Regional Parks System, 40% to the state parks and trails, and 20% to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks System.

Distribution of Legacy funds

Legacy funds for the metropolitan Regional Parks System are distributed to the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies (Agencies) according to a formula set in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.53. By law, 10% of each year's appropriation is set aside for land acquisition. The remaining 90% is distributed as follows:

- 45% is based on each Agency's relative share of the most recent Operation and Maintenance distribution;
- 31.5% is based on each Agency's relative share of the most recent population estimate in the metropolitan area; and
- 13.5% is based on each Agency's relative share of non-local visits based on the Council's most recent user visitation survey.

Based on a preliminary revenue estimate issued by the State of Minnesota, the Legislature will appropriate to the metropolitan Regional Parks System \$20.280 million in state fiscal year (SFY) 2020 and \$20.447 million in SFY 2021. After applying the statutory formula to the remaining 90% of funds, each Agency's shares are as follows:

Agency	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	Total
Anoka County	\$1,660,880	\$1,674,557	\$3,335,437
Bloomington	337,126	339,902	678,028
Carver County	396,451	399,715	796,166
Dakota County	1,422,128	1,433,839	2,855,967
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	4,306,129	4,341,591	8,646,720
Ramsey County	1,498,220	1,510,557	3,008,777
Saint Paul	2,663,542	2,685,475	5,349,017
Scott County	668,607	674,112	1,342,719
Three Rivers Park District	4,354,204	4,390,060	8,744,264
Washington County	944,713	952,492	1,897,205
Total	\$18,252,000	\$18,402,300	\$36,654,300

Collectively, the Agencies have submitted proposals for 53 projects. Council staff has reviewed the projects to ensure each project meets the Legacy and Equity Toolkit requirements. The project descriptions are attached to this Information Item as Attachment 1.

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission role

At the September meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, each Agency will present its projects to the Commission and stand for questions. In October, the Commission will consider whether to recommend the projects to the Community Development Committee, the Metropolitan Council, and the Governor’s office.

At the September MPOSC Meeting, the Commissioners are invited to engage in dialogue with Agencies regarding the scope of work for each project and the Equity Toolkit responses. Please remember that in 2017 the Legislature required that the Council accept the established priorities of the locally elected boards. The purpose of this dialog is to increase understanding and support for the suite of Legacy projects to bring to the 2019 Legislature for the funding request. Another desired outcome is to encourage dialogue between the Commissioners and Agencies, so that the Commissioners better understand the proposed projects, including the equity efforts. Commissioners will also have an opportunity to share insights and advice with the agencies on their projects.

2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP)

Applicable RPPP policies include:

- Finance Strategy 1 and Minnesota Statutes, section 473.51 both limit the distribution of Legacy and other grant funds to the 10 Agencies.
- Finance Strategy 3 requires that Legacy funds are spent in a manner that conforms to the statewide Parks and Trails Legacy Plan.
- Finance Strategy 5 requires that where appropriate, equity will be a consideration in Regional Parks System funding and investment.

Legacy’s strategic directions

The Legislature directed the establishment of a 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan. The following four areas “serve as the heart” of the 25-year plan and establish the future direction for parks and trails of state and regional significance:

- Connect people and the outdoors – better develop Minnesota’s stewards of tomorrow through efforts to increase life-long participation in parks and trails.

- Acquire land, create opportunities – create new and expanded park and trail opportunities to satisfy current customers as well as to reach out to new ones.
- Take care of what we have – provide safe, high-quality park and trail experiences by regular re-investment in park and trail infrastructure, and natural resource management.
- Collaborate among partners – enhance coordination across the large and complex network of public, private and non-profit partners that support Minnesota’s parks and trails to ensure seamless, enjoyable park and trail experiences for Minnesotans.¹

Funding for collaboration among partners is set aside before dividing the funds between Greater Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources, and the metropolitan Regional Parks System. The Legacy Plan recommends a balanced approach among the remaining three areas. For state fiscal years 2020-2021, the 51 projects propose to invest Legacy funds as follows:

- Acquire land, create opportunities: 60.81% of spending through 22 projects
- Take care of what we have: 25.82% of spending through 18 projects
- Connect people and the outdoors: 13.37% of spending through 13 projects

The Agencies have categorized their projects as follows:

Agency	Acquire land, create opportunities	Take care of what we have	Connect people and the outdoors	Total
Anoka County	0	4	0	4
Bloomington	0	2	1	3
Carver County	2	1	2	5
Dakota County	0	0	4	4
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	5	2	0	7
Ramsey County	4	3	3	10
Saint Paul	7	1	2	10
Scott County	1	1	1	3
Three Rivers Park District	2	1	0	3
Washington County	1	3	0	4
Total	22	18	13	53

Equity Toolkit responses

Of the 53 projects, 32 indicated that the project had been specifically designed to impact equity of the Regional Parks System. These projects total 69% of the allocated dollars.

- Age: 18 projects
- Race: 23 projects
- Ability: 25 projects
- Income: 19 projects
- Ethnicity: 18 projects

¹ [25-Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, page v](#)

- National origin: 13 projects

Rationale

By understanding Legacy's funding and programmatic requirements, Commissioners will be able to better understand the projects they will vote on in October.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The 53 projects proposals advance the Thrive Outcome of Livability through increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation, which enhances quality of life in the region. Additionally, 32 projects explicitly address the Thrive Outcome of Equity, through reducing barriers to participation across race, age, ability, income, ethnicity, and national origin.

Funding

There is no funding impact at this time. The final appropriation for state fiscal year 2020 will be added to the Council's Authorized Capital Program in the second quarter 2019 budget amendment. The Council does not match the Legacy appropriation.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.



STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 PARKS & TRAILS LEGACY FUND PROJECT PROPOSALS

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION – SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – WASHINGTON COUNTY

\$944,713 in 2020 and \$952,492 in 2021 for:

- Replacing an existing facility with a multi-use building
- Adding space to an existing maintenance facility area
- Two play area replacements

COTTAGE GROVE RAVINE MULTI-USE BUILDING

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$844,713	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Connect people and the outdoors					
RPS unit	Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park					
Scope of work	An existing shelter and restroom facility will be replaced by a new multi use building at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. The building may include restrooms, storage space, multi-purpose lobby space, equipment staging area and fire ring.					
Equity impact	Ability: The existing shelter and restroom facility does not meet ADA standards. The access and new building will be ADA compliant and designed to accommodate users of all abilities.					
Measure of equity impact	Metropolitan Council conducts a park visitation study every 5 years. Visitation estimates for the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park post and pre construction can be compared and reported.					

LAKE ELMO MAINTENANCE FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Priority	2	Requested amounts	2020	\$100,000	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	Lake Elmo Park Reserve					
Scope of work	Improvements to the Lake Elmo Park Reserve maintenance facility area will include adding space for staff facilities and equipment storage and may include repurposing the existing facility.					
Equity impact	This project was not designed to advance equity.					

LAKE ELMO PAVILION PLAY AREAS

Priority	3	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$450,000
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Lake Elmo Park Reserve				
Scope of work		Two existing playgrounds will be replaced at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. One is located near the north pavilion, the other is located near the south pavilion. The renovation will consist of include site grading, refurbishing, replacing, or adding equipment, improved lighting, landscaping, and playground structure access.				
Equity impact		Ability: The existing playgrounds are in need of repair and do not meet ADA standards. The new play areas will be ADA compliant and designed to accommodate users of all abilities.				
Measure of equity impact		Metropolitan Council conducts a park visitation study every 5 years. Visitation estimates for the Lake Elmo Park Reserve post and pre construction can be compared and reported.				

ST. CROIX BLUFFS PLAY AREAS

Priority	4	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$502,492
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park					
Scope of work	Two existing playgrounds will be renovated at St Croix Bluffs Regional Park. One is located in the campgrounds, the other is located in the central open lawn area. The renovation will include site grading, refurbishing, replacing, or adding equipment, improved lighting, landscaping, and playground structure access.					
Equity impact	Ability: The existing playgrounds are in need of repair and do not meet ADA standards. The new play areas will be ADA compliant and designed to accommodate users of all abilities.					
Measure of equity impact	Metropolitan Council conducts a park visitation study every 5 years. Visitation estimates for the Lake Elmo Park Reserve post and pre construction can be compared and reported.					

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

\$4,354,204 in 2020 and \$4,390,060 in 2021 for:

- Regional park design and construction
- Regional trail reconstruction and microsurfacing

DAKOTA RAIL REGIONAL TRAIL MICROSURFACING

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$475,000
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Dakota Rail Regional Trail				
Scope of work		Microsurfacing helps extend the life of paved trails by 50 %, and provides a very smooth surface that is enjoyable to ride on. The project includes but is not limited to design, engineering, construction administration, microsurfacing of approximately 14 miles of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail and the trail spur from Dakota Rail RT to Gale Woods Farm SRF.				
Equity impact		This project is not designed to advance equity.				

MISSISSIPPI GATEWAY DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$4,354,204	2021	\$2,915,060
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Mississippi Gateway Regional Park					
Scope of work	This project will focus on design, construction and construction management of the development projects identified in the 2018 Mississippi Gateway Regional Park Master Plan.					
Equity impact	Age, race, ability, income, ethnicity, national origin: New visitors can choose to explore increasing degrees of “wilderness” and then want to branch out to explore other nature-based parks. Environmental education and outdoor recreation skill programs will be an important component of the services the park will offer.					
Measure of equity impact	A comprehensive visitor study.					

LAKE INDEPENDENCE REGIONAL TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$1,000,000
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Lake Independence Regional Trail				
Scope of work		The project includes but is not limited to design, engineering, construction administration, reconstruction of 1.8 miles of regional trail from County Road 6 in Plymouth to the Luce Line State Trail in Orono.				
Equity impact		This project is not designed to advance equity.				

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – SCOTT COUNTY

\$668,608 in 2020 and \$674,113 in 2021 for:

- Master planning for regional trails
- Lakefront design and development
- Maintenance shop development

CLEARY LAKE REGIONAL PARK MAINTENANCE SHOP DEVELOPMENT, PHASE 2

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$449,956	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	Cleary Lake Regional Park					
Scope of work	Completion of the activities in the previously-funded project. The project will result in the construction of an approximately 7,200 square foot maintenance shop and administrative office, replacing an existing inadequate facility. Project activities include demolition, design, engineering, construction, construction administration and other related construction costs.					
Equity impact	This project was not designed to impact equity.					

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK LAKEFRONT DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$674,112
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS Unit		Spring Lake Regional Park				
Scope of work		Project activities include design & engineering of a lakefront development area & Phase 1 construction, construction administration & other related construction costs for trails, a fishing pier, parking, a passive picnic area, entrance road and restrooms, based on a community engagement process that will incorporate methods to involve and get feedback from individuals from population segments under-represented by the regional park system as a whole as well as segments underserved in Scott County.				
Equity impact		Race, ability, & income: this project will add accessible facilities, non-fee based facilities not currently offered at the park, and facilities of interest identified by diverse groups in local and regional surveys and focus groups.				
Measure of equity impact		Impact will be measured with a survey of park users prior to the project and a survey of park users 1-2 years after project completion.				

REGIONAL TRAIL MASTER PLANNING

Priority	3	Requested amounts	2020	\$218,651	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Search corridors for Louisville, Outlet Channel, Southern Scott and Big Rivers Extension Regional Trails					
Scope of work	Development of regional trail master plans for the Southern Scott Regional Trail Search Corridor (from Cedar Lake Farm to Cleary Lake Regional Park) and the Louisville Regional Trail Search Corridor including consulting services to prepare the master plans and facilitate a public engagement process.					
Equity impact	Age, race, ability, income, ethnicity, and national origin: The master plan engagement process will include multiple opportunities targeted to population segments that are underserved by the regional park system and will include emphasis on involvement of under-represented populations across different types of engagement efforts.					
Measure of equity impact:	We will provide a voluntary demographics survey to all participants of our engagement efforts (such as pop-up events, workshops, planning team, open houses, online surveys, etc). The results of these completed surveys will be summarized and reported.					

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – CITY OF SAINT PAUL

\$2,663,542 in 2020 and \$2,685,475 in 2021 for:

- Outreach
- Volunteer and education coordinators
- Shuttle service
- Design, engineering and construction of pedestrian bridges
- Master planning
- Interpretive planning
- Regional park development
- Trail construction
- Parking lot reconstruction

ROBERT PIRAM REGIONAL TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$300,000	2021	\$0
Strategic direction		Acquire land, create opportunities				
RPS unit		Robert Piram Regional Trail				
Scope of work		Finish construction of 3.71 miles of the Robert Piram Regional Trail. Project may include construction of trail-related amenities. Previous funding rounds provided the remainder of the construction budget.				
Equity impact		This project is not designed to impact equity.				

COMO REGIONAL PARK – RECONSTRUCT PARKING LOTS ALONG LEXINGTON PARKWAY

Priority	2	Requested amounts	2020	\$88,542	2021	\$660,475
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	Como Regional Park					
Scope of work	Full reconstruction of parking lots and associated entrance drives, path connections, and curbs in Como Regional Park, including asphalt and concrete removal, excavation, grading, stormwater management, erosion control, paving and concrete work, lighting, and landscaping.					
Equity impact	This project was not designed to impact equity.					

HIDDEN FALLS-CROSBY FARM MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Priority	3	Requested amounts	2020	\$100,000	2021	\$400,000
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Hidden Falls – Crosby Farm Regional Park					
Scope of work	First phase of implementation of the Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Master Plan expected to be completed in early 2019. Projects may include construction of buildings, installation of park amenities, paving of trails, paving of roads and parking lots, utility installation or relocation, grading, stormwater management, erosion control, lighting, signage, and landscaping.					
Equity impact	This project is not designed to impact equity.					

INDIAN MOUNDS INTERPRETIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Priority	4	Requested amounts	2020	\$500,000	2021	\$0
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Indian Mounds Regional Park				
Scope of work		Implementation of the Cultural Resources Study expected to be completed in Summer 2019. Project may include signage, interpretive elements, access reconfiguration to portions of park, & other items identified in the plan.				
Equity impact		Race: This project has been advanced in cooperation with the American Indian community. Funds will be used for the development of the site elements and access reconfigurations.				
Measure of equity impact		Over 12 meetings with Tribal communities and all stakeholders will establish protocol for planning, treatment and interpretation of sacred lands. Meetings will inform priorities and the creation of accurate and digestible information to make pre-colonial history accessible for all. Number of and demographics for visitors to site will measure success of goals to increase visitorship to park thereby improving appreciation and stewardship of sacred lands.”				

POINT DOUGLAS MASTER PLANNING

Priority	5	Requested amounts	2020	\$100,000	2021	\$0
Strategic direction		Acquire land, create opportunities				
RPS unit		Point Douglas Regional Trail				
Scope of work		Prepare master plan for future Point Douglas Regional Trail. Project may include community engagement, assessing feasibility, and engineering testing.				
Equity impact		This project is not designed to impact equity.				

ROBERT PIRAM BRIDGE DESIGN/ENGINEERING

Priority	6	Requested amounts	2020	\$700,000	2021	\$100,000
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Robert Piram Regional Trail					
Scope of work	Complete the design and engineering on bike/ped bridge over Barge Chanel Road and produce construction documents. Bridge will be constructed in a future second phase.					
Equity impact	This project was not designed to impact equity.					

BRUCE VENTO-SAM MORGAN REGIONAL TRAILS – DESIGN, ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE CONNECTING BRIDGE

Priority	7	Requested amounts	2020	\$450,000	2021	\$1,100,000
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Bruce Vento Regional Trail					
Scope of work	Design, engineer, and prepare to construct grade separated crossing over Hoffman Interlocking and Warner Rd to connect Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Sam Morgan Regional Trail. Project may include grading, stormwater management, lighting, signage, construction administration and landscaping associated with bridge construction. Construction portion of project will only proceed if full funding is secured from other sources.					
Equity impact	This project was not designed to impact equity.					

COMO PARK ZOO CONSERVATORY SHUTTLE

Priority	8	Requested amounts	2020	\$105,000	2021	\$105,000
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Como Park Zoo and Conservatory				
Scope of work		Como shuttle program relieves pressure on parking availability by providing additional parking capacity and increasing accessibility to regional park programs and experiences				
Equity impact		This project was not designed to impact equity.				

VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION COORDINATORS

Priority	9	Requested amounts	2020	\$150,000	2021	\$150,000
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Jurisdiction-wide				
Scope of work		<p>The Education and Volunteer Coordinators were established for program development/implementation. They will increase efforts to connect, recruit, lead, and coordinate people to our regional parks while developing a deeper relationship with recreation staff, schools and other groups, supplies associated with this program. Program activities are restricted to those with direct benefits for the regional parks and trails.</p>				
Equity impact		<p>Age and race: The programs that are organized as a result of this funding are geared toward groups who may not otherwise have access to education and participation in natural resources based programming. We are able to tailor programming towards increasing access and create ties to increase usership in our parks and create stewards and regular users of our resources.</p>				
Measure of equity impact		Participant logs for Environmental programs. Surveys from participants about satisfaction of programs and/or volunteer experiences.				

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE DIVISION

Priority	10	Requested amounts	2020	\$170,000	2021	\$170,000
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Jurisdiction-wide				
Scope of work		Develop a framework for increasing the number of annual visits by underserved demographic groups to St. Paul's riverfront regional parks by providing more opportunities and increasing accessibility. Introduce innovative public engagement practices, provide venues for cultural activities, training for participation in natural resource based activities.				
Equity impact		Programming such as family camping programs are aimed to build appreciation & exposure to the outdoors & the environment, particularly among low-income communities. With the recognition that many sites within regional parks along the Mississippi River are sacred to indigenous communities, outreach is being done to amplify their voices in discussions about future capital projects in these parks.				
Measure of equity impact		Programming participation is analyzed to ensure target communities are being reached. Prior to the start of new efforts in the river area, community leaders from the American Indian community and representation from the Indian Affairs Council are identified so representation is assured in the efforts.				

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – RAMSEY COUNTY

\$1,498,220 in 2020 and \$1,510,557 in 2021 for:

- Master planning and design
- Off-leash area improvements
- Development of winter recreation areas
- Flood design and redevelopment
- Playground redevelopment
- ADA improvements
- Conservation Corps of Minnesota
- Volunteer coordinator and outreach specialist

OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$125,000	2021	\$125,000
Strategic direction	Connect people and the outdoors					
RPS unit	Jurisdiction-wide					
Scope of work	The outreach specialist makes connections with agencies that serve youth in low income areas and that serve underrepresented park users in a variety of settings. Examples of programs include gardening, fishing, and canoeing.					
Equity impact	Age, race, income, ethnicity: Programs will focus on reaching youth and agencies that serve youth of color and low income clients. Relationships with these agencies will be cultivated. Introductions to recreation skills and outdoor activities will be the focus in order to attract youth and help them continue these interests independently or with their friends and families.					
Measure of equity impact	Basic demographic data will be gathered by the outreach specialist with program registration and through data sharing with partner agencies.					

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Priority	2	Requested amounts	2020	\$75,000	2021	\$75,000
Strategic direction	Connect people and the outdoors					
RPS unit	Jurisdiction-wide					
Scope of work	The volunteer coordinator recruits, trains, and recognizes volunteers who help assist with operations and programs in a variety of settings. Some care for the animals, some the garden, some assist with programs, some do projects within the park.					
Equity impact	Age: The volunteer program typically attracts older retired adults. This group has time to volunteer and does not usually need income.					
Measure of equity impact	Demographic data can be obtained during the registration of volunteers.					

CONSERVATION CORPS OF MINNESOTA

Priority	3	Requested amounts	2020	\$110,000	2021	\$110,000
Strategic direction	Connect people and the outdoors					
RPS unit	Jurisdiction-wide					
Scope of work	The Conservation Corps provides a crew to perform natural resource management tasks throughout the regional park system. Buckthorn removal, community garden maintenance, invasive species control, and landscaping are some of the tasks performed.					
Equity impact	Age, race, income, ethnicity: The Conservation Corps serves youth of lower socio-economic means as well as youth of minority racial and ethnic groups. The skills learned will also potentially provide a career path to pursue.					
Measure of equity impact	Demographic data will be gathered from the Conservation Corps.					

ADA IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 2

Priority	4	Requested amounts	2020	\$100,000	2021	\$100,000
Strategic direction	Connect people and the outdoors					
RPS unit	Jurisdiction-wide					
Scope of work	In the project's first phase, the County completed an ADA Transition Plan identifying opportunities for ADA improvements. This phase will complete the implementation plan component of the Transition Plan, which will identify the priorities and dovetail the timing for implementation with other planned maintenance and rehabilitation or redevelopment. Implementation of deficiencies will be initiated per the identified priorities including parking spaces, entryways, transition surfaces, and restrooms.					
Equity impact	Ability: ADA improvements make use of park facilities more easily accessible and accommodating. Park users will have an easier time parking, using sidewalks and trails, entering buildings, moving within buildings, using picnic facilities, restrooms, and park amenities.					
Measure of impact on equity	Inspection of each deficiency corrected to ensure each meets or exceeds ADA standards, and reporting on those inspections.					

BATTLE CREEK UPPER AFTON PLAYGROUND REDEVELOPMENT, PHASE 2

Priority	5	Requested amounts	2020	\$413,000	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	Battle Creek & Indian Mounds Regional Park					
Scope of work	During Phase 1, further engagement led to refocusing this project to build a destination playground. This phase will complete construction. The new playground includes traditional play equipment for toddlers and youth, plus other features, including a nature play area with water feature. Work will include site prep, infrastructure, grading, trail relocation, signage, landscaping, picnic tables, installation of play area pods, safety surfacing, and part of play equipment purchase.					
Equity impact	Age, race, ability, income, ethnicity, national origin: The playground is designed to be a destination site with traditional equipment along with nature play features. A water element will be included. These have proven popular at Tamarack Nature Center's Discovery Hollow nature play area. Accessibility for all will be a design feature.					
Measure of equity impact	The next park use visitor survey will capture a sampling from this area. Spot survey of users to determine satisfaction rating.					

BRUCE VENTO MASTER PLAN AND DESIGN

Priority	6	Requested amounts	2020	\$300,000	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Bruce Vento Regional Trail					
Scope of work	Supplemental design of the regional trail segment from Highway 96 to County Road J, including a master plan amendment and alternative trail corridor search.					
Equity impact	Age, race, ability, income, ethnicity, national origin: A completed trail will provide access to parks, housing, retail, schools, and commercial properties. Regional trails connect people and people to places. The new segment will be accessible for older adults and people with disabilities.					
Measure of equity impact	Trail use counts and trail visitor surveys will record demographic information.					

VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES FLOOD REDESIGN & REDEVELOPMENT

Priority	7	Requested amounts	2020	\$300,220	2021	\$300,000
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park					
Scope of work	Re-design and reconstruct park features and trail routes in Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park. Redevelop the beach area so it is useful with water at varying elevations; improve the beach building; add/improve pedestrian connections, parking, site amenities, signage, stormwater and landscaping.					
Equity impact	This project was not designed to advance equity.					

BATTLE CREEK WINTER RECREATION

Priority	8	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$550,557
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Battle Creek Regional Park					
Scope of work	Design and construct a winter recreation area within Battle Creek Regional Park, including snowmaking equipment, a holding pond for water, building infrastructure, and pumps, with a tubing hill, a snowboarding hill, new lighting, tow rope, and winter lodge.					
Equity impact	Age, race, ability, income, ethnicity, national origin: Close access to a longer winter season will provide opportunities for winter participation. Instruction programs and access to those low income participants will improve accessibility.					
Measure of equity impact	Regular surveys will provide data to determine whether targeted groups are participating and at what rate.					

MASTER PLAN UPDATES

Priority	9	Requested amounts	2020	\$75,000	2021	\$75,000
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Long Lake Regional Park and Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park					
Scope of work	Conduct a process to update existing master plans at two regional parks. Community engagement will be a large part of the updates and amendments.					
Equity impact	Age, race, ability, income, ethnicity, national origin: The public input process will need to intentionally draw in comments from all underrepresented groups. The master plans drive future development and redevelopment. Outreach to these groups will need to occur.					
Measure of equity impact	Demographic data will be asked of participants in the public input process. Items provided by these groups that are included in the final master plan will be highlighted.					

SYSTEM-WIDE OFF-LEASH AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Priority	10	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$225,000
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Battle Creek, Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes and Rice Creek North Regional Parks				
Scope of work		Implement improvements as identified in the 2018 off-leash area master plan for the regional park off-leash areas. Examples include benches, ADA access, access to drinking water, and exercise equipment.				
Equity impact		Age, race, ability, income, ethnicity, national origin: A large majority of households contain one or more dogs. The off-leash areas provide a place for exercising dogs and creating social opportunities for people and their pets. Limited accessibility determines that some people are excluded physically from parts of these areas. Improvements include limited ADA accessibility improvements.				
Measure of equity impact		Park use counts as well as park visitor surveys will capture demographic use and changes.				

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – MPRB

\$4,306,130 in 2020 and \$4,341,590 in 2021 for:

- Regional park and trail development
- Pavilion improvements
- River access and improvements

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK — WATER WORKS

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$306,000	2021	\$218,569
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park					
Scope of work	Design, engineer, and implement improvements including trails, pathways, canoe/kayak launching & other river access, shoreline restoration, stormwater management, buildings, earthwork, informational signage, & visitor comfort facilities.					
Equity impact	Race, ability, ethnicity: interpretive planning and facilities that will focus on histories other than the well-known European-American one. People of color & native people have identified the Euro-American interpretive focus in many parks as a barrier to feeling welcome in the parks. In addition, the project will include improvements in accessibility for people with different mobility & visual abilities.					
Measure of impact on equity	Upon completion of the project, MPRB would perform surveys that ask users to confidentially self-identify as to race, ethnicity, income, and ability, and ask their satisfaction with the park.					

HALL'S ISLAND AND THE PARK ON THE SCHERER SITE

Priority	2	Requested amounts	2020	\$228,000	2021	\$1,570,900
Strategic direction		Acquire land, create opportunities				
RPS unit		Above the Falls Regional Park				
Scope of work		Design, engineer, & implement improvements associated with the ongoing restoration of Hall's Island and the creation of a park on the Scherer site, including bridge & boardwalk access to the island, trails, pathways, canoe/kayak launching & other river access, shoreline restoration, stormwater management, buildings, earthwork, informational signage, & visitor comfort facilities.				
Equity impact		Race, ability, income, & ethnicity: The park as a whole will provide recreational amenities currently lacking for those populations. The fundamental lack of high-quality water-based parks nearby is assuredly a barrier to park use for underserved groups. The new accessible trails and boardwalks will also allow for an improved experience of the Mississippi River for those who are differently abled.				
Measure of impact on equity		Upon completion of the project, MPRB would perform surveys that ask users to confidentially self-identify as to race, ethnicity, income, and ability, and ask their satisfaction with the park.				

MISSISSIPPI GORGE IMPLEMENTATION

Priority	3	Requested amounts	2020	\$420,843	2021	\$1,710,000
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Mississippi Gorge Regional Park					
Scope of work	Design, engineer, and implement improvements including trails, stairways, walls, and interpretive and wayfinding signs, fishing and other river access, shoreline restoration, parking, informational signage, and visitor comfort facilities. The new master plan currently under way will use community participation to determine exact priority projects funded under this request.					
Equity impact	Race, ability, income & national origin: Improvement of pathways & fishing access will directly benefit people with different abilities in terms of mobility & vision; also, this location is the closest in proximity to the Cedar Riverside neighborhood, which is majority populated by people of color, specifically east African families, many of whom are recent immigrants.					
Measure of impact on equity	Surveys of differently abled persons to determine satisfaction with the improvements & surveys in which users could self-identify anonymously by race/ethnicity/national origin. This would determine use by the target east African population.					

ABOVE THE FALLS REGIONAL PARK IMPLEMENTATION

Priority	4	Requested amounts	2020	\$1,261,286	2021	\$842,122
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	Above the Falls Regional Park					
Scope of work (Will be further defined after RiverFirst Plan is finalized and approved.)	Implement the RiverFirst Plan, including, potentially, riverside park spaces at Upper Harbor Terminal, extended trail connections, bridge retrofits for pedestrian & bicycle access to trails, a river overlook & trail gap, & shoreline restoration. Could include design, engineering, administration, earthwork, trails, shoreline enhancement, natural areas, buildings, comfort facilities, interpretive facilities, & signage.					
Equity impact	Race, ability, income, & ethnicity: The park as a whole will provide recreational amenities currently lacking for those populations. The fundamental lack of high-quality water-based parks nearby is assuredly a barrier to park use for underserved groups. The new accessible trails and boardwalks will also allow for an improved experience of the Mississippi River for those who are differently abled.					
Measure of impact on equity	Upon completion of the project, MPRB would perform surveys that ask users to confidentially self-identify as to race, ethnicity, income, and ability, and ask their satisfaction with the park.					

MINNEHAHA PARKWAY IMPLEMENTATION

Priority	5	Requested amounts	2020	\$461,270	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail					
Scope of work	Design, engineer, and construct rehabilitation projects associated with existing trails, bridges, habitat enhancement, stormwater management and water quality infrastructure, and signage. Projects will be determined through community participation in a master planning process.					
Equity impact	Ability: Any improvements made in the park will improve accessibility for those with mobility difficulties. In addition, we expect the master plan will call for and this funding will implement enhanced opportunities for water access, fishing, and accessible nature experiences for those with physical, visual, and/or cognitive difficulty.					
Measure of impact on equity	Upon completion of the project, MPRB would perform on-site surveys of differently abled persons to determine their satisfaction with the improvements.					

MINNEHAHA PARK PAVILION IMPROVEMENTS

Priority	6	Requested amounts	2020	\$628,730	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	Minnehaha Regional Park					
Scope of work	Continue rehabilitation of Minnehaha Regional Park Pavilion to upgrade public spaces including restrooms, open seating areas, plaza spaces, stairs, ramps, and landscaping. Work will include design, engineering, architecture, and construction.					
Equity impact	This project was not designed to impact equity.					

THEODORE WIRTH IMPLEMENTATION

Priority	7	Requested amounts	2020	\$1,000,000	2021	\$0
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Theodore Wirth Regional Park				
Scope of work		Implementation of various aspects of the adopted master plan, as prioritized by the community in that plan after further conversation with park users and community members to select final projects, including design, engineering, and administration for trails rehabilitation, natural areas, wayfinding, signage, interpretive elements, stormwater management, buildings, shelters, and historic resources.				
Equity impact		Ability				
Measure of impact on equity		Upon completion of the project, perform on-site surveys of differently-abled persons to determine their satisfaction with the improvements.				

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – DAKOTA COUNTY PARKS

\$1,422,128 in 2020 and \$1,433,839 in 2021 for:

- Outreach and engagement coordinator
- Regional Parks System marketing
- Trailhead improvements
- River access improvements and other development

PARKS OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$81,120	2021	\$84,365
Strategic direction	Connect people and the outdoors					
RPS unit	Jurisdiction-wide					
Scope of work	<p>Manage a community outreach and engagement program to increase and enhance use of the parks by focusing on activities that strengthen use of parks, engaging the community, agencies, and developing relationships with community members. Additional focus would be identifying and supporting opportunities for partnership with County departments including social services, corrections, etc., to provide opportunities to connect clients to the outdoors.</p>					
Equity impact	<p>The primary function of the Outreach and Engagement Coordinator position is to increase and enhance use of the Dakota County park system by developing and strengthening relationships with diverse community members in order to promote equity.</p>					
Measurement of equity impact	<p>Observation of visitor/participant numbers, diversity, and satisfaction; additional survey research; and stakeholder interviews with user groups from target populations as part of subsequent planning initiatives.</p>					

PARKS SYSTEM MARKETING

Priority	2	Requested amounts	2020	\$100,000	2021	\$100,000
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Jurisdiction-wide				
Scope of work		Implement an integrated brand awareness and marketing campaign to increase awareness and familiarity of the park system service offerings to Dakota County residents and increase new use throughout the park system. The campaign will use print, digital and other media strategies to inform a broad and diverse audiences with targeted approaches appropriate for those audiences.				
Equity impact		The primary function of the marketing campaign is to increase awareness and visitation of the Dakota County park system, particularly among non-traditional populations in order to advance equity.				
Measurement of equity impact		Observation of visitor/participant numbers, diversity, and satisfaction; additional survey research; and stakeholder interviews with user groups from target populations as part of subsequent planning initiatives.				

BIG RIVERS REGIONAL TRAIL – TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS

Priority	3	Requested amounts	2020	\$1,241,008	2021	\$0
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Big Rivers Regional Trail				
Scope of work		Build trailhead to the Big Rivers Regional Park including restrooms, drinking water, information center, picnic canopy, an expanded parking lot, accessibility improvements, and interpretation of historical/cultural/natural resources.				
Equity impact		Enhancements will include improving accessibility to the Big Rivers Regional Trail and overlooks to the Minnesota River as well as interpretation of the historical, cultural, and natural resources of the river. Facility design will meet or exceed ADA requirements and reflect best practices in universal design, as applicable. Providing information and wayfinding for non-English speakers is also anticipated, as is the case with other Dakota County parks and greenways.				
Measurement of equity impact		Observation of visitor/participant numbers, diversity, and satisfaction. Additional survey research (e.g., biennial Dakota County Residential Survey, Met Council surveys). Stakeholder interviews with user groups from target populations as part of subsequent planning initiatives.				

SPRING LAKE PARK RESERVE – MASTER PLAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Priority	4	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$1,249,474
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Spring Lake Park Reserve				
Scope of work		Design, engineer, & construct improvements in accordance with the updated Master Plan, due in 2019, likely including natural resource restoration, enhanced access to the Mississippi River, and additional gathering/event spaces. (This grant will require an administrative amendment prior to <u>beginning</u> construction, to reflect the final plans.)				
Equity impact		Enhancements will include improving accessibility to the Mississippi River through direct river access as well as improving views, overlooks, and interpretation of the river, meeting or exceeding ADA requirements & reflecting best practices in universal design, as applicable. Providing information & wayfinding for non-English speakers is also anticipated. Overall, planning for increasingly diverse use will be a major component of the master plan update.				
Measurement of equity impact		Observation of visitor/participant numbers, diversity, and satisfaction. Additional survey research. Stakeholder interviews with user groups from target populations as part of subsequent planning initiatives.				

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – CARVER COUNTY

\$396,451 in 2020 and \$399,715 in 2021 for:

- Staffing for a recreation & volunteer specialist and for a parks operations and natural resources supervisor
- Outreach programming
- Development at Lake Waconia Regional Park
- Construction of a 2-mile trail segment

RECREATION & VOLUNTEER SPECIALIST

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$38,000	2021	\$39,000
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Jurisdiction-wide				
Scope of work		Continue Recreation and Volunteer Specialist position initiated in 2014 to develop and implement recreation and volunteer programs. Engage 3,300 park visitors through 100 programs provided in the County Regional Parks in outreach programming.				
Equity impact		This project was not designed to advance equity.				

LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$286,751
Strategic direction		Acquire land, create opportunities				
RPS unit		Lake Waconia Regional Park				
Scope of work		Project is to be consistent with Phase 1 development for Lake Waconia Regional Park as provided in the master plan to assist in development for Coney Island, which may include development on the island or development of waterfront access. An agreement with the Council on how the funds will be best utilized to accomplish elements of the master plan will occur after design and project scoping are better known.				
Equity impact		This project was not designed to advance equity.				

OUTREACH

Priority	2	Requested amounts	2020	\$28,000	2021	\$28,000
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Jurisdiction-wide				
Scope of work		Funds will be used to conduct programs at areas inside and outside of park boundaries (e.g. regional parks & trails schools, city parks and neighborhoods) to encourage use of regional park and trail facilities; scholarships for those who meet income guidelines for low/moderate incomes; seasonal staffing to conduct recreation programs and outreach activities, and to fund advertising and marketing for programs and outreach activities				
Equity impact		Income: Scholarships for County regional park programming for those who meet income guidelines, which are under development.				
Measure of equity impact		Number of scholarships awarded.				

TH5 TRAIL, MN LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM CONNECTION

Priority	3	Requested amounts	2020	\$285,451	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Acquire land, create opportunities					
RPS unit	TH5 Regional Trail					
Scope of work	Construct approximately 2 miles of regional trail connecting existing trails at Century Boulevard to an existing trail underpass at Minnewashta Parkway. From Century Blvd to Hwy 41 construct trail in MNDOT ROW for TH 5 & Life Time Fitness, Obtain easements as needed from private property owners. At Hwy 41 construct an underpass connecting the trail on the east and west side of Hwy 41. Just west of Hwy 41 ROW, construct trail on U of M Landscape Arboretum property to Minnewashta Parkway. Trail to be constructed and paved at a 10' width.					
Equity impact	This project was not designed to advance equity.					

PARKS OPERATIONS & NATURAL RESOURCE SUPERVISOR

Priority	4	Requested amounts	2020	\$45,000	2021	\$46,000
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Jurisdiction-wide				
Scope of work		The position manages park and trail maintenance personnel and corresponding operations. The position is responsible for asset management of park facilities, grounds and natural resources (forest, prairie, wetland, shore land, wildlife).				
Equity impact		This project was not designed to advance equity.				

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

\$337,126 in 2020 and \$339,902 in 2021 for:

- Park Ambassador program
- Trail reconstruction
- Restroom and maintenance facility reconstruction

PARK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$33,712	2021	\$33,990
Strategic direction		Connect people and the outdoors				
RPS unit		Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve				
Scope of work		Staffing, programming and supplies to operate a Park Ambassador program focusing on increasing usage by minorities and other underrepresented populations, by conducting community outreach, meet-and-greet park users, education of regulations, address reservation/maintenance concerns & creating programs of interest to underserved segments based on surveys, engagement and outreach.				
Equity impact		Age, race, ability, income, ethnicity & national origin: By conducting outreach to those not currently using the facility, we hope to include and encourage use of underserved populations.				
Measurement of equity impact		Park counts, event attendance, number of individual/organization engagement contacts made.				

EAST BUSH LAKE TRAILS

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$0	2021	\$305,912
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve				
Scope of work		Construct and reconstruct approximately 8,500 linear feet of bituminous trails and boardwalks, retaining walls, soil corrections, associated storm water management improvements, landscaping, concrete sidewalk connections, turf restoration, surveys/permits, signage, plus design/engineering/legal fees and contingencies.				
Equity impact		This project was not designed to impact equity.				

NORMANDALE LAKE RESTROOMS & MAINTENANCE GARAGE

Priority	Requested amounts	2020	\$303,414	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have				
RPS unit	Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve				
Scope of work	Replace existing bathroom building and maintenance garage, including design, engineering, legal, demolition, retaining walls, soil corrections, stormwater, landscaping, lighting, concrete driveway and sidewalk connections, furniture, fixtures, equipment, utilities, turf restoration, surveys, permits, signage, and contingencies.				
Equity impact	This project was not designed to impact equity.				

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY – ANOKA COUNTY

\$1,660,880 in 2020 and \$1,674,557 in 2021 for:

- Wave pool reconstruction
- New interpretive displays and exhibits
- Parking lot construction
- Conservation Corps of Minnesota

BUNKER BEACH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Priority	1	Requested amounts	2020	\$1,000,000	2021	\$1,514,557
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Bunker Hills Regional Park				
Scope of work		Development of asset management plan; wave pool reconstruction. Includes design, engineering, construction, utility work, and restoration.				
Equity impact		This project is not designed to impact equity.				

CONSERVATION CORPS OF MINNESOTA

Priority	2	Requested amounts	2020	\$155,000	2021	\$160,000
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Jurisdiction-wide				
Scope of work		Conducting invasive species removals; prairie, oak savanna and forest restoration; oak wilt management; seeding; plantings; building and grounds maintenance; tree/shrub removal; debris removal; sign installation; and river clean-up/obstruction removal				
Equity impact		Age, race, & income: CCM is a non-profit that provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to young adults from diverse background while accomplishing conservation and natural resource management goals				
Measurement of equity impact		Visitor surveys could be conducted to assess the success of this project and be measured by the quality of visitor experiences and frequency of use.				

WARGO NATURE CENTER DISPLAYS

Priority	3	Requested amounts	2020	\$350,000	2021	\$0
Strategic direction	Take care of what we have					
RPS unit	Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve					
Scope of work	Create new and improve existing interpretive displays and exhibits at the nature center, including design, engineering and construction of new displays and exhibits.					
Equity impact	Age & Ability: Displays will be designed to meet and/or exceed ADA requirements.					
Measurement of equity impact	Assessments of the project will occur as various stages from beginning to end to ensure age and ability populations are better served.					

PELTIER FISHING PIER PARKING LOT CONSTRUCTION

Priority	4	Requested amounts	2020	\$155,880	2021	\$0
Strategic direction		Take care of what we have				
RPS unit		Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve				
Scope of work		Design, construct, equip and furnish a paved parking lot at the Peltier Lake public fishing pier.				
Equity impact		Ability & Ethnicity: Current dirt lot will be paved and ADA access provided to the fishing pier.				
Measurement of equity impact		Conduct visitor surveys and staff observation.				