

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: April 9, 2020

Subject: Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Process Update

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2019, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 3(h)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Emmett Mullin

Division/Department: Community Development/ Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None. Information and discussion only.

Background

In 2019, the Minnesota Legislature passed [session law](#) that directed the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to convene and facilitate a work group of nine members to develop consensus recommendations for the future allocation of the parks and trails (Legacy) fund.

The work group shall have three representatives each from the Metropolitan Regional Parks System coordinated by the Metropolitan Council, the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails System coordinated by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and State Parks and Trails coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The legislation instructs the work group to consult with the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee. It also directs the work group to develop a consensus recommendation by June 15, 2020, and present it to the governor for consideration in the budget for fiscal years 2022 and 2023, with the possibility of extension in future biennia.

The Mediation Center of Minnesota has been enlisted to help facilitate the development of the consensus recommendation. The work group has met twice so far, with the most recent March meeting canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the April 6, 2020, Committee meeting, Council staff will provide an update on this process and next steps.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by helping connect all residents of our Region and State to recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities. It also advances the Thrive outcome of Livability, by improving the quality of our residents' lives through enhancing access to high quality recreational opportunities. Additionally, it helps advance the Thrive principle of Collaboration, recognizing that shared efforts advance our region and state most effectively toward our common outcomes.

Funding

The Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Workgroup will help guide the Governor and State Legislature on how best to allocate the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding appropriation for State Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. The total appropriation amount is estimated to be approximately \$100 million a biennium.

Known Support / Opposition

None at this time.