

Regional Park System FY2022/2023 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Projects Overview and Equity Highlights

Regional Park Implementing Agency Presentations Part One: City of Saint Paul, Anoka County, Three Rivers Park District, Scott County, and Washington County

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Meeting

December 3, 2020



Purpose of today's presentation

- Present the proposed Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (PTLF) projects for the FY2022/2023 Biennium
- 5 Agencies will present their list of projects today and highlight a project designed to advance equitable use of the Regional Park System
 - City of Saint Paul
 - Anoka County
 - Three Rivers Park District
 - Scott County
 - Washington County
- The remaining 5 Agencies will present their projects at the January 7 MPOSC

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

- The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund was created to support parks and trails of statewide or regional significance after the passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008
- The Council receives an appropriation each biennium for the Regional Parks System; these funds are allocated to the Regional Park Implementing Agencies based on a formula driven by O&M shares, population, and non-local park use
- The estimated funding for the Regional Parks System for the FY2022/2023 biennium is \$44 million
- 10% of the Council's PTLF appropriation is set aside for the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund program

Agency project lists

- The Agencies submit a list of potential projects in preparation for the upcoming legislative session
- These projects are subject to change due to final funding allocations and appropriation language that authorizes the Agency boards to select projects
- As part of today's presentation, Agencies were asked to identify which projects are designed to advance equitable use of the Regional Park System
- Agency staff from the City of Saint Paul, Anoka County, Three Rivers Park District, Scott County, and Washington County will now present their projects

City of Saint Paul FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects
Total Estimated Allocation: \$4,923,600

Equity Focus Area

Battle Creek-Indian Mounds Regional Park Fish Hatchery Trail Design & Reconstruction: Design and partial construction of Fish Hatchery Trail (MRT) stabilization and replacement

None

Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Park Lilydale Dog Park Construction: Construction of new dog park

None

Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Park Harriet Island Play Area Reconstruction: Reconstruction of deficient play area at Harriet Island

Ethnicity, National Origin, Age

Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Hidden Falls Master Plan Implementation: Design phase for parking lot, trail and crossing improvements, and restroom

None

Phalen-Keller Regional Park East Shore Trailhead Design and Construction: Design and construction of new trailhead, restroom and picnic shelter on east shore of lake at connection to Bruce Vento Regional Trail

Ability, Age

Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Connecting Trails Design: Design phase for trail connections to Hidden Falls, Victoria Park, boardwalk, and future River Learning Center

None

City of Saint Paul FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects
Total Estimated Allocation: \$4,923,600

Equity Focus Area

Phalen-Keller Regional Park Picnic Pavilion Design: Design phase for reconstruction of picnic pavilion

Race, Income

Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan: Prepare new master plan to replace 1980s era design plan for Mississippi River Blvd

None

Saint Paul Regional Parks and Trails Volunteer and Education Program Coordinators: Continued funding of volunteer coordinator and education coordinator for activities in regional parks and trails

Race, Income

Como Regional Park Shuttle: Continued funding of Como Shuttle to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle safety by relocating vehicular traffic from main entrance areas to off-site parking

None

Saint Paul Regional Parks and Trails Great River Passage Division Riverfront Programming/Planning: Continued funding of Great River Passage Division for programming and planning in riverfront regional parks and trails

Race, Income

Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Lower Landing Improvements: Continued implementation of master plan projects at Lower Landing

None

Cherokee Heights Regional Park Trail Connections: Construction of new trails within Cherokee Heights

None

Lake Phalen East Shore Trailhead

- PAOF-funded acquisition at Arlington Ave
- Future Rush Line co-located with Bruce Vento RT
- Concept identified in 2011 Master Plan engagement
 - Much support for safer ped/bike connections, clearer trail alignments
 - Overwhelming support for more public restrooms throughout park
- No bathrooms or drinking fountains on 2 mile stretch on east side of lake
- Currently, major part of park is less accessible for youngest and oldest visitors, as well as those with mobility challenges
- Future project engagement targeting these communities

Anoka County FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects
Total Estimated Allocation: \$3,510,000

	Equity Focus Area
Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve Improvements: Design, engineering and reconstruction of main park road and equity enhancement amenities.	Ability/Youth
Anoka County Regional Parks and Trails Natural Resource Management & Restoration: Hire staff or contract services for natural resources management, restoration and maintenance	Age (hiring youth)
Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park Trail Improvements: Design, engineering and trail reconstruction and culvert replacement at Coon Creek	Ability
Bunker Hills Regional Park Improvements: Reconstruction of Activities Center Roof.	N/A



Legacy Project Equity Highlight - RCCOL PARK

YOUTH FOCUS EQUITY ENHANCEMENTS



RAISE
AWARENESS



ADDRESS SAFETY
ISSUES AND PARK
WAYFINDING



IMPLEMENT YOUTH
NEEDS/IDEAS

Three Rivers Park District FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects
Total Estimated Allocation: \$9,067,200

Equity Focus Area

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park Construction: Complete reconstruction of the Park with facilities outlined in the approved Master Plan

Race, Ethnicity,
Income, National
Origin



Legacy Project Equity Highlight

What communities are you working to better serve with this project?

- This project is guided by an extensive Master Plan that re-envisioned the entire park, with a primary focus on input from people of color, households with incomes of \$50,000 or less, persons 45+ years old, persons with an education level of high school or less, non-English speaking persons, persons with English as a second language and non-park users.



Brooklyn Center Secondary 'bike to park' picnic and engagement.

Source: Three Rivers Park District



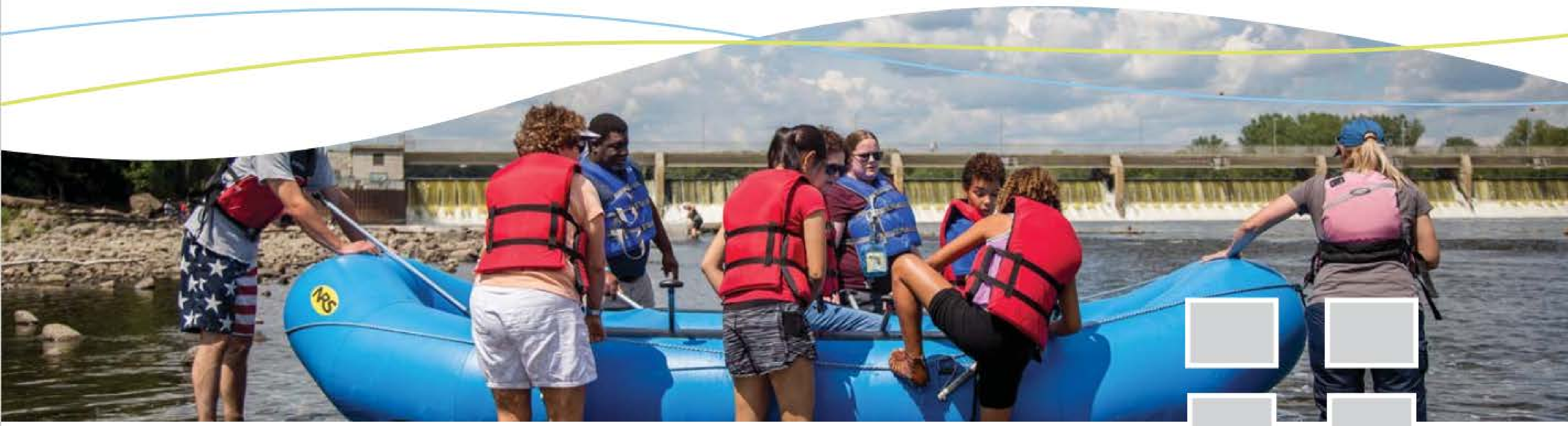
Zanewood Recreation Family Night engagement.

Source: Three Rivers Park District

Legacy Project Equity Highlight

How has your community engagement or equity lens shaped your project to better serve identified populations?

- The entire park and its facilities will be designed to meet the needs of underserved populations as identified in the Master Plan, with a strong focus on introducing new visitors to our nature-based parks system through welcoming gateways and extensive environmental and outdoor-skills classes.



Scott County FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects
Total Estimated Allocation: \$1,456,900

	Equity Focus Area
Spring Lake Regional Park Lakefront Development: Construction of lakeside amenities such as trails, fishing pier, picnicking areas, restroom and support infrastructure	Income, Ability, Race
Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park Phase One Construction Design: Design of a first phase of visitor use improvements such as trails, trailhead amenities, parking, and other support infrastructure	Income, Ability
Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park Phase One Construction: Construction of hiking trails, trail head, parking and other support infrastructure	None

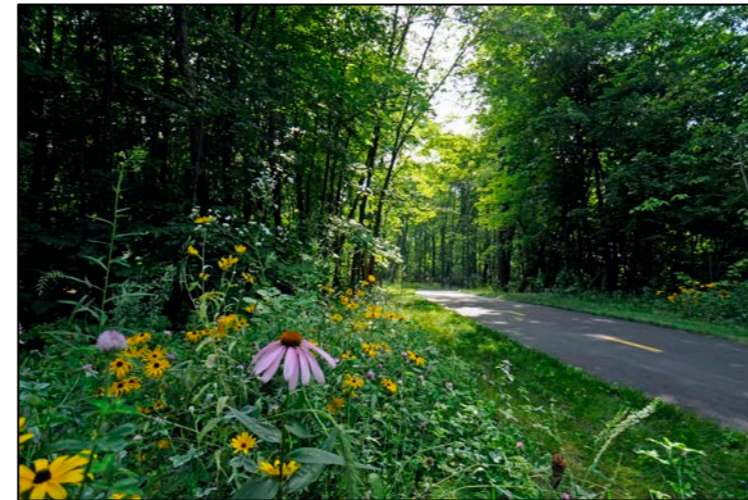


Legacy Project Equity Highlight

Spring Lake Regional Park



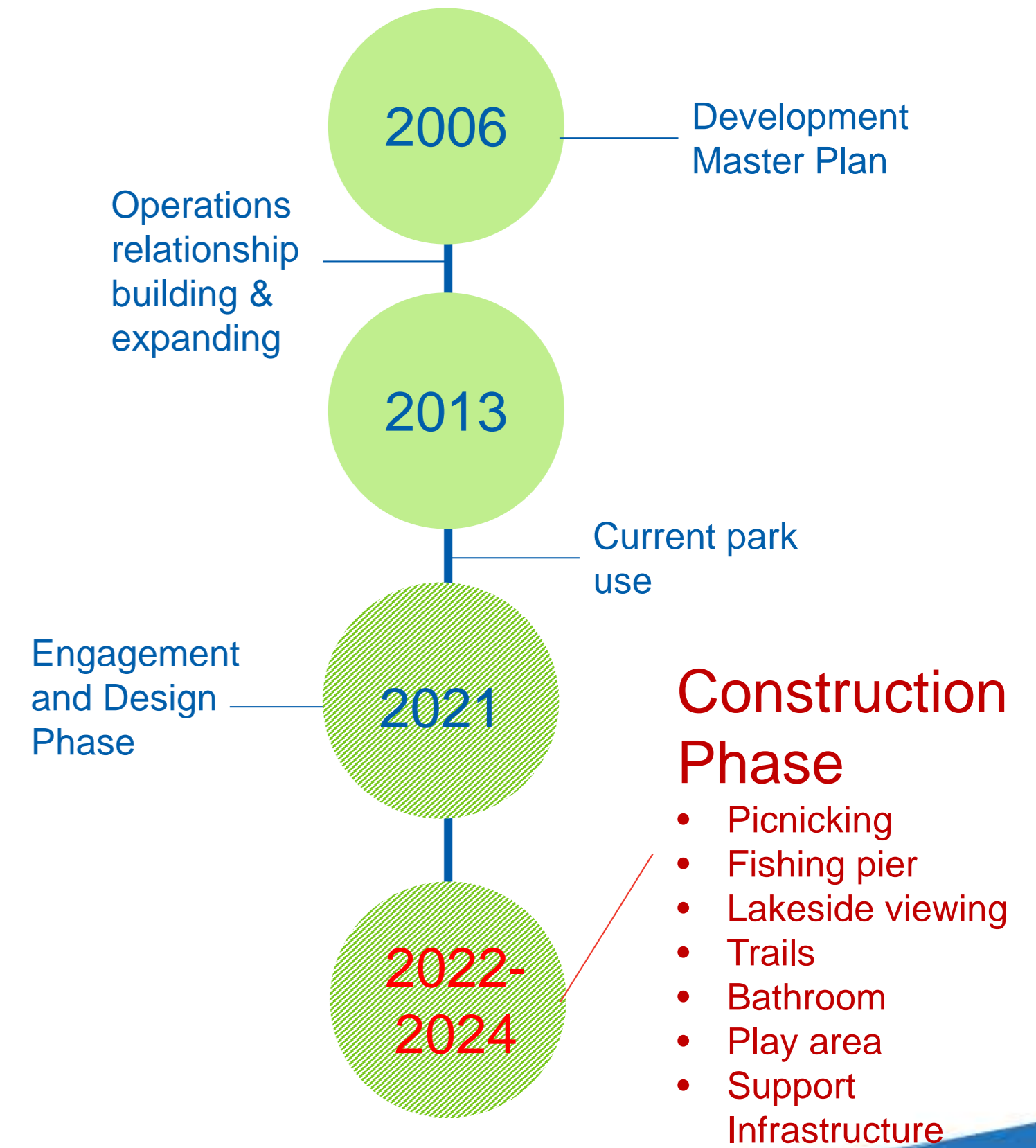
Amenities now...



Future development area...



Park Timeline



Legacy Project Equity Highlight

Income

- Overall, lower income households are under-represented;
- Lower income households may be more attracted to certain low-cost activities such as trail hiking, picnicking, and non-motorized boating/fishing (Three Rivers 2018 Park Visitor Study)
 - free access to accessible canoe/kayak launch, picnic areas, fishing pier, trails, and lakeside observation areas

Ability

- Resident feedback indicates that Scott County needs more accessible options, both with paved trails and water access; Overall persons with disabilities under-represented in parks (Met Council 2018 Visitor Study)
 - accessible canoe/kayak launch

Race

- Picnic and fishing areas may be more often used by non-white park visitors (Met Council 2016 Regional Parks Visitor Study; Met Council Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color, 2014)
 - accessible canoe/kayak launch, picnic areas, and fishing pier

Legacy Project Equity Highlight

How has your community engagement or equity lens shaped your project to better serve identified populations?

Master Plan Process for Spring Lake was in 2006 → 2021 Additional Engagement Process to confirm a vision with new conversations & understandings

Key contributors: Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

- Master Plan team (2006) – helped plan trails through community neighborhoods for direct and accessible park access
- Collaborative natural resources management, volunteer events, and nature-based programming (2009 to today)
- Spring Lake Trailgate Event (2018, 2019) – intentional new style...first time for:
 - Using translated marketing materials (and social media) for a Scott County or Three Rivers event
 - Having a community leader on the planning team and engaging local leaders to help disseminate the materials
- Various engagement conversations indicate that accessible waterfront access for fishing and non-motorized boat access important (limited free & public lakeside access for neighboring Prior Lake)

	2018	2019
Canoe/Kayak Dock	25.15%	24.54%
Fishing Pier	16.86%	16.12%
Open Air Shelter	1.48%	2.56%
Open Green Space	3.25%	2.93%
Passive Picnicking	4.73%	1.83%
Pavilion with Plaza	7.99%	6.23%
Play Area	25.15%	32.97%
n	338	273

Table 1. Engagement responses from Spring Lake Trailgates 2018 and 2019. Participants could vote for more than one.

Washington County FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects
Total Estimated Allocation: \$2,001,000

Equity Focus Area

Central Greenway Regional Trail Improvements: The project scope includes implementation of the Central Greenway Regional Trail within Lake Elmo Park Reserve and may include new trail segments, pavement rehabilitation, trailhead area improvements, signage and wayfinding

Ability

St Croix Bluffs Regional Park Hilltop Shelter & Play Area Improvements: The project scope includes updates and site improvements to the hilltop picnic shelter and two play areas at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park

Age, Ability

Point Douglas Regional Trail & Park Building Improvements: The project scope may include updates to the existing trailhead and restroom facilities at the Point Douglas Regional Trail trailhead

Ability



Point Douglas Regional Trail & Park Building Improvements

- Important trail link at Mississippi & St. Croix River Confluence
- Accessibility Improvements
- Better serve first-time users



Questions, Comments, and Discussion

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Community Development Division

