

# Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Program Overview

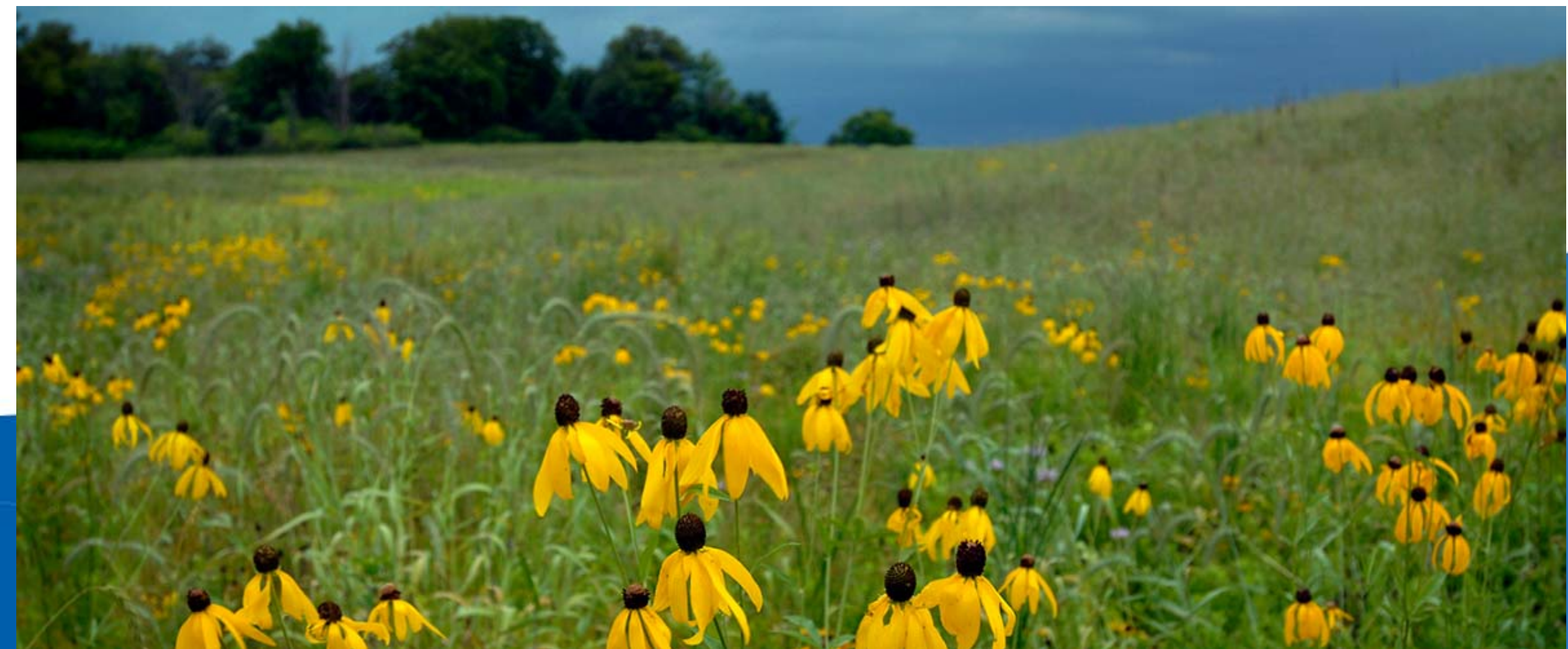


# Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund

- The Council provides grants to the Implementing Agencies to acquire land for the Regional Parks System
- Parcels must be within a Council-approved regional park or trail boundary
- Land is acquired in fee title or occasionally through a permanent easement
- Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis; a complete application is required to get in line for funding

# Funding

- PAOF grants are a mix of State, Council, and Agency funds
- Two sources of State funding
  - Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (PTLF)- 10% of appropriation set aside for PAOF
  - Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)- Council staff applies for this competitive funding through the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)
- State funds are matched 3/2 with Council funds
- Agencies responsible for 25% of total project cost
- For example, total project of \$100,000:
  - State funds \$45,000
  - Council funds \$30,000
  - Agency match \$25,000



*Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, courtesy of Three Rivers Park District*

# Funding Available

- Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund: \$3,250,000
  - FY2021 appropriation: \$1,000,000
  - FY2022 appropriation: \$2,250,000
- Parks and Trails Legacy Fund: \$2,433,500
  - FY2021: \$262,300
  - FY2022: \$2,171,200
- Council match: \$3,789,000
- Balance from previous years: \$553,230
- Total funds available: \$10,025,730
- Agencies are limited to \$3.4 million/fiscal year
  - \$1.7 million from ENRTF/Council match
  - \$1.7 million from PTLF/Council match)



*Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park*

# Appraisals and Purchase Agreements

- Agencies must have a certified appraisal (less than one year old) and a signed purchase agreement before they apply for a grant
- Grants will pay for up to 110% of the appraised value (plus other project costs)
  - Justification of special circumstances is required for amounts greater than 100% of the appraised value
  - ENRTF requires special permission from the LCCMR to pay above 100%
  - Agencies may offer the landowner above 110%; however, any amount beyond 110% will not be eligible for grant funds or counted towards match
- Occasionally, interests in land are acquired through eminent domain; in these special cases, the Council may honor the amount settled by the Court
  - ENRTF may not be used for eminent domain

# Other Considerations

- ENRTF Requirements
  - Parcels must have high quality natural resources or restoration potential
  - Parcels must be in the LCCMR Work Plan
  - Funds cannot be used to purchase structures
- Agencies are encouraged to contact staff when they have an acquisition opportunity to work out the timing of Council approval and the closing date
  - Council staff need a completed application about 6 weeks before MPOSC; occasionally agendas are full, and Agencies may have to wait
  - Agencies may close on the property immediately following Council approval



*Grey Cloud Island Regional Park from a distance*



*St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Rowe acquisition*

# Recent Acquisitions

- Ramsey County
  - 1 acre for Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park
- Scott County
  - 37 acres for Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve
- Three Rivers Park District
  - 28 acres for Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature
  - 15 acres for Lake Rebecca Park Reserve
  - 5 acres for the Rush Creek Regional Trail
- Washington County
  - 49 acres for Pine Point Regional Park
  - 41 acres for Grey Cloud Island Regional Park
  - 102 acres for St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park



*Pine Point Regional Park*

# Questions?

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