

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: December 3, 2020 and January 7, 2021

**Subject:** Parks and Trails Legacy Fund FY2022/2023 Biennium Projects Overview and Equity Highlights

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minn. Stats. §§ 473.325 and 473.315; *Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Chapter 8, Finance Strategy 3

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Jessica Lee, Senior Parks Planner, 651-602-1621

**Division/Department:** Community Development

### Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

### Background

The purpose of this information item is to present the Regional Park Implementing Agencies FY2022/2023 proposed project lists for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (PTLF) and to highlight PTLF projects designed to advance equity. The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund was established to support parks and trails of statewide or regional significance after Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the State Constitution in 2008. A portion of the PTLF is appropriated to the Council to distribute to the ten Regional Park Implementing Agencies each biennium. In preparation for this appropriation, the Council asks the Agencies to prepare a list of proposed projects to be shared with legislative policy makers during the upcoming legislative session.

**Equity Toolkit.** The Council works with the ten Agencies to understand and document how projects advance equitable use of the Regional Parks System. Each Agency identified which of their PTLF projects help advance equitable usage. At the December MPOSC meeting, each agency will feature one of these projects. The purpose of this exercise is to help foster a system-wide discussion on how we are collectively advancing equitable use in the Regional Parks System, including exploring effective ways to build equity components into PTLF projects.

A summary of the proposed FY2022/2023 PTLF projects is included in Table 1 below. These projects are subject to change because they are based on an appropriation and allocation estimate using current budget forecasts and last year's acreage and use reports. Once the Legislature and Governor finalize the appropriation amount, staff will work with the agencies and their elected boards to finalize the project lists.

Table 1. Proposed FY2022/2023 Regional Parks Parks and Trails Legacy (PTLF) Program Projects

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
<b>Anoka County</b>		<b>\$3,510,000</b>
Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve Road Reconstruction and Equity Enhancement Amenities	Design, engineering and reconstruction of main park road and equity enhancement amenities	
Anoka County Regional Parks and Trails Natural Resource Management & Restoration	Hire staff or contract services for natural resources management, restoration and maintenance	
Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park Trail Improvements	Design, engineering and trail reconstruction and culvert replacement at Coon Creek	
Bunker Hills Regional Park Improvements	Reconstruction of activities center roof	
<b>Bloomington</b>		<b>\$690,800</b>
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Normandale Lake Restrooms & Maintenance Garage Replacement	Replace restrooms and maintenance building	
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Bush Lake Fishing Pier Replacements	Replace place two fishing piers on the west and east side of Bush Lake	
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve East Bush Lake Trail Project	Construct new trails, boardwalks and reconstruct existing trails north of Bush Lake Beach	
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Sign Replacement at Normandale Lake	Replacement of an electronic sign at Normandale Lake	
<b>Carver County</b>		<b>\$819,400</b>
Carver County Regional Parks Recreation and Volunteer Specialist	Continue Recreation and Volunteer Specialist position initiated in 2014 to develop and implement recreation and volunteer programs	
Carver County Regional Parks and Trails Operations and Natural Resource Manager	This position manages park and trail maintenance personnel, park facilities, grounds and natural resources	
Carver County Regional Parks and Trails Outreach	Conduct outreach programs, provide low-income scholarships, seasonal outreach staffing, and advertising and marketing	
Lake Waconia Regional Park Site Restoration and Development	Building demolition of a former ballroom and site restoration; continued island cleanup and park development	
Baylor Regional Park Visitor Center Plan Development	Plan development for visitor center remodel including ADA upgrades for restrooms and preliminary site plan development	
Baylor Regional Park Visitor Center Remodel	Visitor center ADA improvements, deck reconstruction, beach redevelopment/shoreland restoration, campground electrical upgrade, and camper cabin construction	

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
<b>Dakota County</b>		<b>\$3,074,800</b>
Dakota County Regional Parks and Trails Outreach & Engagement Coordinator	Create and 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	
Dakota County Regional Parks and Trails Park System Awareness & Marketing Campaign	Develop and implement an integrated brand awareness and marketing campaign to increase awareness and familiarity of the park system	
Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Fort Snelling Segment Completion	The Minnesota River Valley is one of the largest open spaces within a major metropolitan area; completion of the development of this segment will represent an important milestone in the corridor which is part of the larger planned Minnesota Valley State Trail	
<b>Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board</b>		<b>\$8,858,500</b>
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Implementation	Improvements as envisioned in the master plans and prioritized by the community at the time of funding availability; possible projects could include trail rehabilitation, access and accessibility improvements, connections to transit, natural areas, buildings and wayfinding	
Minnehaha Regional Park Trail Rehabilitation & Improvement	Improve trails and construct new trails throughout the park, as guided by the master plan	
Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Hiawatha Trail Loop, Bridges & Other Master Plan Implementation	Design, engineer, and implement a trail loop around Lake Hiawatha; interface with a new master plan for the Hiawatha golf course that envisions greater use by the general public; improvements include trail construction, bridges, wayfinding, and visitor comfort amenities	
North Mississippi Regional Park Master/Programmatic Plan & Promotion	Create a new community-engaged master plan to guide development of the park, including a promotional effort to bring greater attention to this underutilized park	
Above the Falls Regional Park Upper Harbor Terminal Park Implementation	Implement public infrastructure and a new park on the Upper Harbor Terminal site, including design, engineering, trails, plazas, recreational amenities, natural areas, shoreline restoration, and other elements called for in the park's master plan	
Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan Implementation	Improvements as envisioned in the master plan and as prioritized by the community at the time of funding availability; possible projects could include trail rehabilitation, access and accessibility improvements, connections to transit, natural areas, buildings and wayfinding	
<b>Ramsey County</b>		<b>\$3,198,600</b>
Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park Volunteer Coordinator	Continue to support a volunteer corps for the Tamarack Nature Center and Discovery Hallow	
Ramsey County Regional Parks & Trails Outreach Programming	Continue to support outreach and outdoor recreation based programming for people of color and low income users throughout the Ramsey County Regional Parks & Trails system	

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
Ramsey County Regional Parks & Trails Natural Resource Management/Conservation Corps of MN	Continue contracts with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) to engage youth of the community in natural resource management projects throughout the regional parks system	
Ramsey County Regional Parks Off-Leash Dog Areas	Implement recommendations from the Off Leash Dog Area master plan at off leash dog areas throughout the regional parks system	
Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Trail Enhancement & Site Improvements	Design, enhance, and construct trails that are resilient to environmental changes; provide site amenities, enhanced access and playground modifications	
Battle Creek Regional Park Winter Recreation	Planning, design, engineering, construction, permitting/administrative costs, and contingencies for a new cross-country skiing and winter recreation area and supporting facilities, equipment, and infrastructure at Battle Creek Regional Park	
<b>Saint Paul</b>		<b>\$4,923,600</b>
Battle Creek-Indian Mounds Regional Park Fish Hatchery Trail Design & Reconstruction	Design and partial construction of Fish Hatchery Trail (MRT) stabilization and replacement	
Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Park Lilydale Dog Park Construction	Construction of new dog park at Lilydale Regional Park	
Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Park Harriet Island Play Area Reconstruction	Reconstruction of deficient play area at Harriet Island	
Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Hidden Falls Master Plan Implementation	Design phase for parking lot, trail and crossing improvements, and restroom at Hidden Falls	
Phalen-Keller Regional Park East Shore Trailhead Design and Construction	Design and construction of new trailhead on east shore of lake at connection to Bruce Vento RT, including restrooms and picnic shelter	
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	
Phalen-Keller Regional Park Picnic Pavilion Design	Design phase for reconstruction of picnic pavilion	
Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan	Prepare new master plan to replace 1980s era design plan for Mississippi River Blvd	
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	
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	
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	
Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Lower Landing Improvements	Continued implementation of master plan projects at Lower Landing Park	
Cherokee Heights Regional Park Trail Connections	Construction of new trails within Cherokee Heights	
<b>Scott County</b>		<b>\$1,456,900</b>
Spring Lake Regional Park Lakefront Development	Construction of lakeside amenities such as trails, fishing pier, picnicking areas, restroom and support infrastructure	

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
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	
Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park Phase One Construction	Construction of hiking trails, trail head, parking and other support infrastructure	
<b>Three Rivers Park District</b>		<b>\$9,067,200</b>
Mississippi Gateway Regional Park Construction	Complete reconstruction of the park with facilities outlined in the approved Master Plan	
<b>Washington County</b>		<b>\$2,001,000</b>
Central Greenway Regional Trail Improvements	Implementation of the trail within Lake Elmo Park Reserve, including new trail segments, pavement rehabilitation, trailhead area improvements, signage and wayfinding	
St Croix Bluffs Regional Park Hilltop Shelter & Play Area Improvements	Improvements to the hilltop picnic shelter and two play areas at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	
Point Douglas Regional Trail & Park Building Improvements	Updates to the existing trailhead and restroom facilities at the trailhead	
<b>Total Council Estimate Appropriation:</b>		<b>\$37,600,800</b>