

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

Regional Park Implementing Agency Presentations Part Two: Ramsey County, Carver County, City of Bloomington, Dakota County, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Meeting

January 7, 2021



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
 - Ramsey County
 - Carver County
 - City of Bloomington
 - Dakota County
 - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

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

Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

- 25-year plan that established the strategic directions or “pillars” for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund
 - Connect people and the outdoors
 - Acquire land and create opportunities
 - Take care of what we have
 - Coordinate among partners



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 chose 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 Ramsey County, Carvery County, City of Bloomington, Dakota County, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will now present their projects

Ramsey County FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects Total Estimated Allocation: \$3,198,600	Equity Focus Area
Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park Volunteer Coordinator: Continue to support a volunteer corps for the Tamarack Nature Center and Discovery Hallow aka (destination for discovery)	Age, Race, Ability, Income, Ethnicity, National Origin
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	Race, Income
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 Ramsey County Regional Parks & Trails	Age
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	None
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, playground modifications	Ability
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.	Ability

Legacy Project Equity Highlight

- Community engagement shows overwhelming desire for programming
- Program specialist position focused on outreach
 - Outreach to community organizations
 - Casa Esperanza,
 - Partnership with Ramsey County Juvenile Justice
 - Public programs
 - Winter Programming Events
 - Partnership with DNR Take Aim at Summer Fun
 - Pop-up Programming



Carver County FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects Total Estimated Allocation: \$819,400	Equity Focus Area
Carver County Regional Parks Recreation and Volunteer Specialist: Continue to develop and implement recreation/volunteer programs; engage 3,300 park visitors through 100 programs provided in the County Regional Parks outreach programming	Age
Carver County Regional Parks and Trails Operations and Natural Resource Manager: This position manages park and trail maintenance personnel and corresponding operations, and is responsible for asset management of park facilities, grounds and natural resources	None
Carver County Regional Parks and Trails Outreach: Conduct programs to encourage use of regional park and trail facilities; low/moderate income scholarships; seasonal staffing to conduct recreation programs and outreach activities; advertising and marketing for programs and outreach activities	Age, Income
Lake Waconia Regional Park Site Restoration and Development: Demolition of a former ballroom and site restoration; continued island cleanup and development	None
Baylor Regional Park Visitor Center Plan Development: Plan development for visitor center remodel including ADA upgrades for restrooms and preliminary site plan development	Ability
Baylor Regional Park Visitor Center Remodel: Visitor center remodel including ADA improvements to restrooms, deck reconstruction, beach redevelopment/shoreland restoration, campground electrical upgrade, camper cabin construction	Ability

Legacy Project Equity Highlight

**Outreach*

- Service - Younger age & lower income communities.
- Summer Explorers
 - 7-wk summer-school program
 - 200-225 youth,
 - Demographics, age, income and race.
- Achieve Afterschool Programming
 - Monthly program
 - Provide greater education support?
 - 10-20 youth.
 - Demographics age, income, race
- Riverview Terrace Community Programming
 - Reoccurring program with 10-15 youth
 - Demographics, age, income, race



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

- Partnering with the school district and engaging residents at a low-income housing development has provided direct inroads to servicing identified populations.



City of Bloomington FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects
Total Estimated Allocation: \$690,800

	Equity Focus Area
<p>Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Normandale Lake Restrooms & Maintenance Garage Replacement: Replace restrooms and maintenance building</p>	Ability
<p>Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Bush Lake Fishing Pier Replacements: Replace two fishing piers on the west and east side of Bush Lake respectively</p>	Income, Age, Ability
<p>Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve East Bush Lake Trail Project: Construct new trails, boardwalks and reconstruct existing trails north of Bush Lake Beach</p>	Ability, Age
<p>Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Electronic Sign Replacement: Replacement of an electronic sign at Normandale Lake Park</p>	Ability, Age



Bush Lake Fishing Piers at Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park



- Bloomington is home to the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park which includes a treasured Bush Lake.
- Bloomington's population has been evolving to include a diverse range of age, ethnicity, race, ability and income
- Fishing piers at Bush Lake are an important asset to Bloomington's residents and support Bloomington's "Learn to Fish" program which introduces children to fishing.

Dakota County FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects
Total Estimated Allocation: \$3,074,800

Equity Focus Area

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

Age, Race, Ability, Income, Ethnicity, National Origin

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 service offerings to Dakota County residents and increase new use throughout the park system

Age, Race, Ability, Income, Ethnicity, National Origin

Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Fort Snelling Segment Completion: The Minnesota River Valley is one of the largest publicly-managed 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 Minnesota Valley State Trail planned by the MN DNR that will travel from Le Sueur to St. Paul

Age, Race, Ability, Ethnicity, National Origin



Legacy Project Equity Highlight



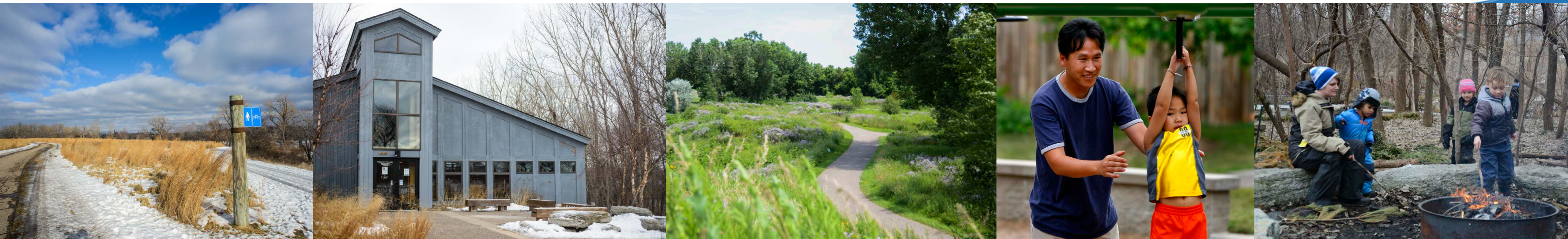
Dakota County Parks Outreach & Engagement Coordinator

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board FY2022/2023 Legacy Projects Total Estimated Allocation: \$8,858,500	Equity Focus Area
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Implementation: Implement a variety of improvements across the regional park, such as trail rehabilitation, access and accessibility improvements, connections to transit, natural areas, buildings and wayfinding	Race, Ethnicity, National Origin, Ability, Income
Minnehaha Regional Park Trail Rehabilitation & Improvement: Improve trails and construct new trails throughout the park, as guided by the master plan, including natural surface trails and associated bridges, boardwalks, walls in the glade area, and paved trails	Race, Ethnicity, National Origin, Ability
Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Hiawatha Trail Loop, Bridges & Other Master Plan Implementation: Design, engineer, and implement a trail loop around Lake Hiawatha, which currently does not exist. This project would 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	Ability, Income
North Mississippi Regional Park Master/Programmatic Plan & Promotion: Create a new community-engaged master plan to guide development of the park for the next 20 years. Also included is a promotional effort to bring greater attention to this underutilized park on the Mississippi River	Race, Ethnicity, Ability, Income
Above the Falls Regional Park Upper Harbor Terminal Park Implementation: Implement public infrastructure and a new park on the Upper Harbor Terminal site. Funding activities would include design, engineering, trails, plazas, recreational amenities, natural areas, shoreline restoration, and other elements called for in the park's master plan	Race, Ethnicity, Ability, Income
Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan Implementation: Implement a variety of improvements across the regional park, such as trail rehabilitation, access and accessibility improvements, connections to transit, natural areas, buildings and wayfinding	Race, Ethnicity, Ability, Income



Legacy Project Equity Highlight: North Mississippi Regional Park

- Previous North Mississippi master plans date from 1986 and 1998.
- North Mississippi has significant water frontage but is disconnected from North Minneapolis
- Our work on the northside through neighborhood park planning revealed a desire to consider North Mississippi more closely
- Nearby demographics are more diverse, and have less wealth than the regional as a whole
- Master planning, promotion, and programming will happen in concert, to welcome community members into the park in a variety of ways.



Questions, Comments, and Discussion

Jessica Lee, Senior Parks Planner/Grant Programs Manager
jessica.lee@metc.state.mn.us

Community Development Division

