

# Parks and Trails Legacy Fund FY2024/2025 Projects Overview and Equity Highlights

Washington County, Dakota County, Carver  
County, City of Bloomington, Scott County

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# Purpose of today's presentation

- Present the proposed Parks and Trails Legacy Fund projects for the FY2024/2025 biennium
- 5 agencies will present their list of projects today and highlight a project designed to advance equitable use of the Regional Parks System
  - Washington County
  - Dakota County
  - Carver County
  - City of Bloomington
  - Scott County
- The remaining agencies will present their projects at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

# Parks and Trails Legacy Fund



- The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (PTLF) 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 FY2024/2025 biennium is \$52 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 Parks System
- Agency staff from Washington County, Dakota County, Carver County, the City of Bloomington, and Scott County will now present their projects

# Washington County FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$2,476,809**

**Equity Focus Area**

**St Croix Bluffs Regional Park Hilltop Area Improvements:** improvements to the Hilltop facility area and play areas - \$1,276,034

Group gathering spaces

**Square Lake Park Improvements:** rehabilitation of existing restroom facility; parking improvements; implementation of trails; signage and wayfinding improvements; boat launch and picnic area improvements - \$720,465

Accessibility

**Point Douglas Regional Trail Facility Improvements:** updates to the trailhead and restroom beach facilities at Point Douglas Park - \$480,310

Accessibility

# Legacy Project Equity Highlight: St Croix Bluffs Regional Park Hilltop Area Improvements



# Dakota County FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$3,769,429**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Agency-Wide Parks Outreach Coordinator:** Create and manage a community outreach and engagement program to increase and enhance park offerings and programs by focusing on activities that engage the community, foster a sense of belonging for all, and strengthen community relationships.

Intentional and meaningful efforts to connect under-represented populations to the regional park system

**Spring Lake Park Reserve - Fischer Ave Area Improvements:** Design, engineering, construction, and construction administration of recreational, interpretation, natural resource, and cultural resource improvements in the area of Fischer Ave to improve access to the Mississippi River Greenway, Mississippi River, park trails, and other park resources (e.g., reintroduced bison herd).

Inclusive improvements designed in coordination with Indigenous leaders and community members

**Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Master Plan Improvements:** Improvements will be determined based on the park master plan, currently undergoing an update with plan adoption expected in 2023.

Inclusive improvements designed in coordination with Indigenous leaders and community members

# Legacy Project Equity Highlight





# Carver County FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$ 1,031,736**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Agency-wide Recreation and Volunteer Specialist:** develop and implement recreation and volunteer programs

Age

**Agency-wide Parks and Natural Resources Supervisor:** manage park and trail maintenance personnel, corresponding operations, and park assets both built and natural

None

**Agency-wide Outreach:** staff and equip recreation programs, provide scholarships for those meet income guidelines, advertising, marketing, and outreach activities

Age, Ability, Income

**Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Playground Replacement:** design and construct a replacement playground structure

Age, Ability

# Legacy Project Equity Highlight

- Age and Ability
- In review of demographic populations, Carver County has a higher percentage of youth



# City of Bloomington FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$ 829,418**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Project name:** Bush Lake Beach Site Improvements – Restroom remodel and entry sign Accessibility

**Project name:** Bush Lake Beach Site Improvements – Playground replacement Accessibility

# Legacy Project Equity Highlight: Restroom Remodel – Bush Lake Beach (H-B-A Park Reserve)



- **Gender-Neutral Facilities**
- **ADA Compliant**
- **Culturally and Family Welcoming**

# Scott County FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$ 1,769,282**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Merriam Junction Regional Trail:** Creating an accessible trail connection through the Minnesota River Valley

Accessibility; low-income; race/ethnicity

**Cleary Lake Regional Park Pavement Project:** Maintaining regional park pavement infrastructure

N/A

**Large Group Gathering Space Study:** Completing a pavilion feasibility study and design

Race/ethnicity

# Legacy Project Equity Highlight



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

- Lower Income: over 25% within 1 mile
- Accessibility: limited accessible recreation along or across Minnesota River
- Ethnicity: sprawling Hispanic population across both counties – provides a recreation connection for all to use

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

- Project was planned in 2011 between both Carver and Scott Counties; approved in SC 2030 plan
- Reconfirmed through engagement for the 2040 plan & summarized in a *Community Conversations* report
- Engagement to this point has included local officials, affected agencies, and adjacent landowners
- Upon development, engagement will be focused on groups nearby, as well as traditionally underserved

# Thank you!

Questions, comments, and discussion

