

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Dates: December 1, 2022 and January 5, 2023

Topic

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

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.325 and 473.315; <i>Regional Parks Policy Plan</i> , Chapter 8, Finance Strategy 3
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Jessica Lee, Senior Parks Planner (651-602-1621)
Division/Department:	Community Development

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed at this time.

Background

The purpose of this information item is to present the Regional Park Implementing Agencies FY2024/2025 proposed project lists for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (PTLF) and to highlight PTLF projects designed to advance equity in the Regional Parks System. The PTLF 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.

The ten Agencies submitted a total of 63 proposed projects. Half of these projects are designed to take care of existing facilities or resources, such as trail micro-surfacing and bridge replacements, playground replacements, accessibility improvements, visitor services improvements, and natural resources restoration. Nearly a third of the projects proposed are designed to connect people to the outdoors through programming, outreach, and education. The remaining projects will acquire land or create new opportunities, such as implementing new long-range plans, creating new regional trail connections, or acquiring land for new park development.

A summary of the proposed projects is included in Table 1 below. These projects are based on an appropriation and allocation estimate and are subject to change. Once the Legislature and Governor finalize the appropriation amount, staff will work with the agencies and their elected boards to finalize the project lists.

Equity Highlights

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 equity. At the December and January meetings of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, each agency will feature one of these projects to help foster a system-wide discussion on how we are collectively advancing equitable use in the Regional Parks System.

Table 1. Proposed FY2024/2025 Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Program Projects

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
Anoka County		\$4,305,589
Bunker Hills Regional Park Improvements	Design, engineering and reconstruction of roadways, trails, boardwalk and pavilions and other work associated with the reconstruction at Bunker Hills Regional Park	
Mississippi West Regional Trail Reconstruction	Design, engineering and reconstruction of Mississippi West Regional Trail and other associated work	
Agency-wide Natural Resources Management	Contract with organizations or hire staff for natural resource management throughout the Anoka County regional system	
Carver County		\$1,031,736
Agency-wide Recreation and Volunteer Specialist	Develop and implement recreation and volunteer programs for the Carver County regional system	
Agency-wide Parks and Natural Resources Supervisor	Manage park and trail maintenance personnel, corresponding operations, and park assets both built and natural across the Carver County regional system	
Agency-wide Outreach	Staff and equip agency-wide recreation programs, provide scholarships for those who meet income guidelines, advertising, marketing, and outreach activities	
Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Playground Replacement	Design and construct a replacement playground structure at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park	
City of Bloomington		\$829,418
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Bush Lake Beach Improvements	Site amenity improvements for accessibility and improved park user experience at Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, including restroom remodel, beach shade structure, and playground replacement	
City of Saint Paul		\$6,022,426
Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Park Riverwalk Design	Community engagement and design for replacement of degraded promenade along the Mississippi River for Harriet Island- Lilydale Regional Park	
Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Plan Implementation Phase III	Continued implementation of the approved Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park long-range plan including accessibility improvements, trail and boardwalk construction, and lighting installation	
Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Plan	Complete a long-range plan for Mississippi Gorge Regional Park	
Phalen Regional Park Activity Center Design	Planning and design to transform Lakeside Activity Center into a destination for paddle sports at Phalen Regional Park	
Phalen Regional Park Intersection Improvements	Reconfigure intersection for safer entry into Phalen Regional Park in coordination with MnDOT TH 61 project	
Point Douglas Regional Trail Phase 1 Design	Begin design to prepare for construction of Phase 1 of Point Douglas Regional Trail	
Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Segments 1 and 4 Design and Reconstruction	Design and reconstruction of degraded segments of Samuel Morgan Regional Trail, matching Federal funding	

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
Agency-wide Long-term Vegetation Maintenance	Agency-wide long-term maintenance of native vegetation established in other Legacy-funded projects	
Agency-wide Great River Passage	Provide operating funds to lead initiatives for equitable access to Saint Paul's regional parks along the Mississippi River	
Agency-wide Volunteer & Education Coordinators	Continued funding of coordinator positions to connect, recruit, lead, and coordinate people to regional parks throughout Saint Paul	
Como Regional Park Shuttle	Shuttle service to enhance access to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory	
Dakota County		\$3,769,429
Agency-Wide Parks Outreach Coordinator	Create and manage an agency-wide 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	
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 at Spring Lake Park Reserve to improve access to the Mississippi River Greenway, Mississippi River, park trails, and other park resources (e.g., reintroduced bison herd)	
Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Plan Improvements	Improvements at Miesville Ravine Park Reserve based on the long-range plan, currently undergoing an update with plan adoption expected in 2023	
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board		\$11,177,269
Grand Rounds Missing Link Acquisition and Development	Acquire properties along the route of the Missing Link and develop trail segments and visitor comfort amenities for the Grand Rounds Missing Link Regional Trail	
Luce Line Regional Trail Acquisition and Development	Acquire CP Rail property and develop trail segments and visitor comfort amenities for Luce Line Regional Trail	
Shingle Creek Regional Trail Plan Implementation	Implement aspects of the adopted Shingle Creek Regional Trail long-range plan, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project	
Theodore Wirth Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement aspects of the adopted Theodore Wirth Regional Park long-range plan, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project	
Victory/Wirth Memorial Parkway Regional Trail Rehabilitation and Improvements	Improve and upgrade portions of trail, roadway, sidewalk, and visitor comfort amenities within the Victory and Wirth segments of the park	
Above the Falls Regional Park Acquisition and Development	Acquire properties along the Mississippi River in north and northeast Minneapolis and develop park and natural resource amenities for Above the Falls Regional Park	
Chain of Lakes Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement aspects of the adopted long-range plans associated with the Chain of Lakes Regional Park, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project	
Mississippi River Gorge Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement aspects of the adopted Mississippi Gorge Regional Park long-range plan, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project	

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
North Mississippi Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement aspects of the North Mississippi Regional Park long-range plan, once adopted, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project	
Ramsey County		\$4,072,085
Bald Eagle Otter Lake Regional Park Volunteer Coordinator	Continue to support a volunteer corps for the Tamarack Nature Center and Discovery Hallow (a.k.a. Destination for Discovery) at Bald Eagle Otter Lake Regional Park	
Agency-wide Outreach Programming	Continue to support outreach and outdoor recreation-based programming for people of color and low-income users throughout the Ramsey County regional system	
Agency-wide Conservation Corps	Continue contracts with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) to engage youth of the community in natural resource management projects throughout the Ramsey County regional system	
Agency-wide Off Leash Dog Area	Implement Phase 2 recommendations from the Off Leash Dog Area master plan at Battle Creek, Rice Creek and Otter Lake off leash dog areas within the County's regional parks system	
Bruce Vento Regional Trail Buerkle Road and County Road J Section	Planning, design, engineering, permitting/administrative costs, and contingencies for a local match to a preliminary engineering federal earmark for the Phase 1 and 2 section of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail between Buerkle Road and County Road J	
Agency-wide Regional Parks and Trails Sign Implementation	Design and installation of new regional park signs throughout the Ramsey County regional system	
Keller Regional Park Tuj Lub Upgrades	Planning, design, engineering, permitting/administrative cost, and contingencies for enhanced Tuj Lub court infrastructure, site and utility improvements, site amenities, stormwater management, wayfinding and restoration at Keller Regional Park	
Battle Creek Regional Park Site Infrastructure and Accessibility Upgrades	Planning, design, engineering, permitting/administrative cost, and contingencies for parking lot maintenance/redevelopment, bituminous trail redevelopment, improved site accessibility and infrastructure, utilities, stormwater management, wayfinding, site amenities, and restoration at Battle Creek Regional Park	
Agency-wide Regional Parks and Trails Playground Development	Planning, design, engineering, permitting/administrative cost, and contingencies for system-wide playground replacement and redevelopment, including playground equipment and infrastructure, site and utility improvements, site amenities, stormwater management, wayfinding and restoration	
Scott County		\$1,769,282
Merriam Junction Regional Trail Accessible Trail Connection through the Minnesota River Valley	Design, phase one construction, construction administration and other related costs to develop the Merriam Junction Regional Trail connection through the Minnesota River Valley	
Cleary Lake Regional Park Pavement Infrastructure Maintenance	Pavement maintenance at Cleary Lake Regional Park	
Agency-Wide Large Group Pavilion Needs Study and Pavilion Design	Complete a study to determine the priority location within the Scott County regional park system to develop a large group pavilion building and provide partial funding for pavilion design and engineering	

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
Three Rivers Park District		\$11,403,559
Baker Park Reserve Campground Electrical Upgrades	Upgrade electric sites to 50 AMP service to meet current industry standards	
Baker Park Reserve Katrina Loop Reconstruction	Design and engineering of the in-park trail around Lake Katrina in Baker Park Reserve	
Elm Creek Park Reserve South Loop Micro-surfacing	Micro-surface existing southern loop trail in Elm Creek Park Reserve	
Elm Creek Park Reserve Three Trail Bridge Replacements	Replace three bridges on the interior park trail network in Elm Creek Park Reserve	
French Regional Park Field Operations Center Exterior Rehab	Replace windows, siding and other fixtures as needed to extend the life of the Field Operations Center at French Regional Park	
Hyland Park Reserve Boat Ramp Access Road and ADA Improvements	Redesign and repave the boat ramp road and area at Hyland Park Reserve to replace end of life pavement and to make the facility ADA accessible	
Hyland Park Reserve Operations Center Shop Renovation	Redesign and expand the Operations Center to provide the space needed to repair the snowmaking equipment used for Hyland Park Reserve Nordic cross-country ski trails	
Mississippi Gateway Regional Park Construction	Complete reconstruction of Mississippi Gateway Regional Park	
Agency-wide Regional Trail Rest Areas and Wayfinding Improvements	Add wayfinding (kiosks), rest areas as needed across the regional trail network	
Luce Line Regional Trail Boardwalk Redecking	Replace the two boardwalks' wooden decks on the Luce Line Regional Trail	
Rush Creek Regional Trail Micro-surfacing	Micro-surfacing of the existing Rush Creek Regional Trail	
West Mississippi River Regional Trail Micro-surfacing	Micro-surfacing of the West Mississippi River Regional Trail	
Bassett Creek Regional Trail Construction on Golden Valley Road	Construct missing gap segment of the Bassett Creek Regional Trail in Golden Valley	
Parks to People (P2P) Sochacki Park Pond Water Docks, Boardwalks, and Learning Stations	Add pod docks, boardwalks, learning stations in Sochacki Park as determined in the Parks to People Plan - Sochacki Park section	
Parks to People (P2P) Sochacki Park Interactive Art and Play Installation	Add interactive art/play structure(s) in Sochacki Park as determined in the Parks to People Plan - Sochacki Park section	
Parks to People (P2P) Plan Recommended Improvements and Programming	Facilities and programming TBD in the Parks to People plan	

Regional Park Implementing Agency/Projects	Project Summary	PTLF Allocation Estimate
Parks to People (P2P) Crystal MAC Nature Area Phase III Boardwalks	Add final phase of boardwalks and learning stations to the Crystal MAC Nature Area as determined in the Parks to People Master Plan section on the MAC nature area	
Washington County		\$2,476,809
St Croix Bluffs Regional Park Hilltop Area Improvements	Updates and improvements to the hilltop facility area and play areas at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	
Square Lake Special Recreation Feature Park Improvements	Planning and design for improvements at Square Lake Park, including parking, trail implementation, signage and wayfinding, boat launch and picnic area, and restroom rehabilitation	
Point Douglas Regional Trail Facility Improvements	Updates to the existing trailhead and restroom beach facilities at Point Douglas Park	

