

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: December 2, 2021, and January 6, 2022

Subject: Regional Parks Bonding Program, Fiscal Year 2023 Projects 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 2

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

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

The purpose of this information item is to provide background to the Commissioners and develop support for the FY2023 Regional Parks System Bonding Program. The total proposed Bonding Program is \$25 million, which includes a \$15 million Council request to the Governor for inclusion in the 2022 Legislative Session. If passed by the Legislature, the Council's match commitment at this level would be \$10 million. In preparation for the upcoming legislative session, the Council asked the Agencies to prepare a list of proposed projects to be shared as part of the funding proposal. The ten Regional Park Implementing Agencies will present the project and equity highlights from this program request during the December 2021 and January 2022 MPOSC meetings.

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 bonding projects help advance equity. At the December and January MPOSC meetings, agencies will feature one or more of these projects. The purpose of this exercise is to 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 bonding projects.

Proposed Projects

A summary of the proposed FY2023 bonding projects is included in Table 1 below. These projects are subject to change as they are based on funding allocation estimates derived from a formula defined in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and using last year's population estimate and the 2019 visitor use report. Staff will work with the agencies and their elected boards to finalize the project lists once the bonding bill passes and updated allocation amounts are available.

Table 1. Proposed FY2023 Regional Parks System Bonding Program Projects

Agency and Regional Park or Trail Project	Project Outcomes	Agency Allocation Estimate*
Anoka County		\$2,471,915
Riverfront Regional Park Maintenance Facility	New maintenance facility at Riverfront Regional Park	
Rum River Regional Trail Bridge Street Underpass	New trail underpass for Rum River Regional Trail	
Bunker Hills Regional Park Boardwalk Reconstruction	Reconstructed boardwalk at Bunker Hills Regional Park	
Bunker Hills Regional Park Maintenance Facility	Design and engineering for a reconstructed maintenance facility at Bunker Hills Regional Park	
Carver County		\$736,110
Waconia Regional Park Phase III Development	New Waterfront Service Center at Waconia Regional Park with picnic shelter, restrooms, indoor activity space; landscaping and shoreline development with walkways and new watercraft pier structure	
City of Bloomington		\$649,986
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Normandale Lake Site Improvements	Improved Normandale Lake accessibility and visitor experience projects at Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve	
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Bush Lake Beach Site Improvements	Improved Bush Lake accessibility and visitor experience projects at Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve	
City of Saint Paul		\$3,009,410
Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Segments 1 and 4 Reconstruction	Reconstructed Segments 1 and 4 of the Samuel Morgan Regional Trail	
Lilydale- Harriet Island Regional Park Harriet Island Riverwalk Design	Design for the renovation of a riverwalk feature on Harriet Island at Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park	
Dakota County		\$2,553,607
Spring Lake Park Reserve Master Plan Improvements	Improved access and visitor experience enhancements, and protection and interpretation of parkwide natural and cultural resources at Spring Lake Park Reserve	
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board		\$5,480,882
Luce Line Regional Trail Land Acquisition and Trail Implementation	CP Rail corridor acquired for the Luce Line Regional Trail, with wayfinding and visitor comfort facilities	
Shingle Creek Regional Trail Master Plan Implementation	New amenities, trails, bridges, wayfinding, comfort facilities and riparian enhancement for the Shingle Creek Regional Trail	
Victory/Wirth Memorial Parkway Regional Trail Recreation, Trail and Environmental Improvements	Reconstructed trail and trail amenities, improved wayfinding, and environmental enhancements of the Victory/Wirth Memorial Parkway Regional Trail	
Above the Falls Regional Park Upper Harbor Terminal Park and Overall Master Plan Implementation	Parkland acquired with new trails, amenities, play areas, courts, wayfinding, comfort facilities, and riparian enhancement of the Upper Harbor Terminal at the Above the Falls Regional Park	
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Implementation	New trails, amenities, play areas, wayfinding and environmental enhancements for the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park	

Agency and Regional Park or Trail Project	Project Outcomes	Agency Allocation Estimate*
Ramsey County		\$2,222,952
Battle Creek Regional Park Infrastructure Improvements	Reconstructed trails, parking lot, stormwater infrastructure, and accessibility improvements at Battle Creek Regional Park	
Long Lake Regional Park Infrastructure Improvements	Reconstructed trails, parking lot, stormwater infrastructure, and accessibility improvements at Long Lake Regional Park	
Scott County		\$874,097
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Phase One Lakeside Group Camp and Fishing Access	Phase one of a new lakeside group camp at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, including support infrastructure such as an access driveway, parking lot, and paved trails, and amenities including a fishing pier and lakeside picnic area	
Three Rivers Park District		\$5,395,702
Baker Park Reserve Picnic Area and Fishing Pier trail reconstruction	Reconstructed south picnic area trail to the fishing pier at Baker Park Reserve	
Hyland Lake Park Reserve Boat Ramp Access Road and ADA Improvements	Boat ramp access road and ADA improvements at Hyland Lake Park Reserve	
Luce Line Regional Trail Boardwalk Redecking South of Medicine Lake	Renovated boardwalks south of Medicine Lake on the Luce Line Regional Trail	
Elm Creek Park Reserve Trail Bridge Replacements	New trail bridges at Elm Creek Park Reserve	
Elm Creek Park Reserve Road and Parking Lot Reconstruction	Reconstructed roads and parking lots at Elm Creek Park Reserve	
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve Restroom and Picnic Shelter	Improved restroom and picnic shelter at Lake Rebecca Park Reserve	
Three Rivers Park District Trail Pavement Management Implementation at Regional Parks and Trails	47 miles of trails rehabilitated at Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Luce Line Regional Trail, Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail, Crystal Lake Regional Trail, Elm Creek Park Reserve, Rush Creek Regional Trail, and West Mississippi River Regional Trail	
Washington County		\$1,605,339
Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond Filtration Improvements	New swim pond filtration system and access improvements at Lake Elmo Park Reserve	
Big Marine Park Reserve Facility Safety Improvements	Improved staff facility restrooms and water services at Big Marine Park Reserve	
Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond Play Area	Reconstructed play area near the swim pond at Lake Elmo Park Reserve	

**Agency allocation estimates are subject to change dependent on updated population and visitation data, as well as total funding amount available.*