

# Regional Parks and Trails System 2024 Competitive Equity Grant Program Draft Notice of Funding Availability

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space  
Commission

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August 3, 2023



# Equity Grant Program Purpose

Provide funding to Regional Park Implementing Agencies for projects to advance equitable use of the Regional Parks and Trails System, with a focus on one or more of the following:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Income
- Ability
- Age
- National Origin

# Equity Grant Program Background



Started with a \$300,000 pilot program in 2019

- Funded 3 capital projects, applications exceeded \$1.5 million

\$2 million dedicated to the second grant round in 2021

- Funded 23 projects- both capital, non-capital/programming projects, and combination projects



# Previously funded projects highlight



- \$60,000 to Washington County for a Parks-on-the-Go Outreach vehicle
- \$100,000 for the Saint Paul BIPOC Ambassador Program
- \$40,000 to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to provide multicultural and multilingual advertising
- \$162,000 to Scott County for a mental health and nature-based wellness program for disproportionately impacted communities
- \$38,700 to Ramsey County for a cultural liaison for parks
- \$52,500 to Anoka County for an augmented reality trail program to inspire youth



# Funding for the 2024 grant round



- \$658,000 in Council bonds is available for capital projects
- \$1,410,000 in parks interest earnings is available for programming/non-capital
  - If funds remain after awarding programming projects, interest earnings may be used for capital projects
  - Programming projects may have small capital components such as recreation equipment
- Agencies may apply for multiple projects but may not receive more than \$200,000 in capital funds and \$200,000 in non-capital funds, for a total of \$400,000
- Agencies may request between \$20,000 and \$200,000 for individual projects

# Scoring Criteria

## Competitive Scoring Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Points
<p><b>Impact on equitable use:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal clearly identifies one or more underserved populations that the project will benefit and why they were chosen</li> <li>The proposal identifies measurable equity outcomes for intended populations</li> </ul>	20
<p><b>Community partnerships:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal demonstrates community involvement throughout the project by both developing new relationships and strengthening existing partnerships</li> <li>The proposal demonstrates how partnerships will continue after the grant period</li> </ul>	20
<p><b>Community engagement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal demonstrates how partners and underserved populations will be engaged throughout the project and after the grant period</li> <li>If the proposal includes community engagement, it clearly demonstrates how the engagement will focus on underserved populations in future planning and projects</li> </ul>	20
<p><b>Capacity building:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal will increase the ability of the regional park implementing agencies and their partners to grow their skills in working with underrepresented communities</li> <li>The proposal demonstrates the agency's capacity to leverage the Council's funds through non-state funds, grants, or in-kind contributions and/or the ability to continue the work after the grant period is complete</li> </ul>	20
<p><b>Programming initiatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal was developed with the agency's outreach/education staff</li> <li>The proposal clearly demonstrates how new programming efforts will affect underserved populations</li> </ul>	20
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>100</b>



# Anticipated timeline for the next grant round



- November 2023: Post Notice of Funding Availability and open application in WebGrants
- December 15, 2023: Applications due, Council staff start review
- February 2024: Technical review team meets and develops funding recommendations
- April 2024: Bring funding recommendations to Council
- May 2024: Grant agreements sent out



# Thank you!

## Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

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