

# Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



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**Meeting Dates:** September 5, 2024  
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## Topic

Regional Parks and Trails System 2024 Fishing Piers Grant Program Draft Notice of Funding Availability

**District(s), Member(s):** All  
**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minn. Stats. §§ 473.325 and 473.315; Minnesota Session Laws 2024, Chapter 116, Sec. 5  
**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 Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$500,000 for new fishing piers on lakes in the Metropolitan Regional Parks System to increase fishing opportunities. This is a one-time appropriations and funds must be used by June 30, 2026. The legislation requires the Council to solicit applications but does not require a competitive grant review process.

Council staff reached out to the DNR and also spoke to the implementing agencies to estimate the average cost of a fishing pier. It was determined that a quality fishing pier, along with minimum access features, would cost somewhere between \$100,000 and \$175,000. Council staff proposed to the implementing agencies to fund three to five eligible grants of equal value through a randomized drawing at a future Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) meeting. The group's consensus recommendation was that \$125,000 would be a good project amount, thus funding four equal grants totaling \$500,000.

Projects must meet specific criteria in order to be included in the public drawing. This criteria is described in the attached draft Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

At this MPSOC meeting, staff will share the key information from the draft NOFA (see attachment 1) and ask for feedback and discussion before finalizing the NOFA and bringing it back in October for approval.