



**METROPOLITAN**  
C O U N C I L

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

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space  
Commission

September 5, 2024



# Background

- In 2024, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$500,000 for new fishing piers on lakes in the metropolitan parks system to increase fishing opportunities
- One-time appropriation
- Funds must be spent by June 30, 2026
- Legislation requires the Council to solicit applications but does not require a competitive grant review process

# Data gathering



- Council staff reached out to DNR for fishing piers cost estimates
  - Basic floating fishing piers ~ \$50,000
- Council staff engaged the implementing agencies
  - To add minimum access features and/or custom builds on the shoreline, projects can range from \$100,000 to \$175,000
- Discussion with the implementing agencies led to consensus that \$125,000 would fund the majority of a high-quality fishing pier project

# Proposed funding scenario



- Each agency is allowed to submit one application
- Council staff will review for eligibility (and work with agencies to address any issues)
- A drawing will be held at an MPOSC meeting
- 4 projects will be randomly selected
- Each project will be funded at \$125,000
- Agencies may provide local funding for project costs that exceed \$125,000

# Eligibility criteria

- Proposals must be for new fishing piers
- Proposals must clearly demonstrate a need and describe how the new fishing pier will increase fishing opportunities
- Proposals must address one or more equity focus area (age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, or ability)
- Proposal must demonstrate how a new fishing pier will contribute to additional programming opportunities and awareness building for the regional parks system
- Projects must be shovel ready and completed by June 30, 2026
- Projects must be consistent with a Council-approved long-range plan

# Anticipated timeline and Next Steps



- October: bring NOFA to MPOSC, CDC, and Council
- November-January 10: application open
- January: staff review
- February MPOSC: public drawing
- February: grant agreements out