

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Dates: February 6, 2025

Topic

Regional Parks and Trails System 2024 Fishing Piers Grant Selection Lottery

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 appropriation and funds must be used by June 30, 2026. After collaborating with the parks implementing agencies and seeking input from the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Committee (MPOSC) and the Council's Community Development Committee, Council staff put together a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to create a one-time grant program. The NOFA was approved by the Council in October 2024 and the Council approved awarding up to four grants of equal value, \$125,000 each.

Each regional park implementing agency was allowed and encouraged to apply for one grant. Projects must be for a new fishing pier at a location that will increase fishing opportunities. Six of the ten agencies submitted a grant application. These projects have all been reviewed by staff and meet the project and appropriation requirements. Four of these applications will be chosen today through a lottery, and grants will be set up soon after today's meeting so the park agencies have adequate time to implement their fishing pier projects.

The six agencies that submitted a grant request are as follows:

- Carver County- Lake Waconia Regional Park
- City of Saint Paul- Crosby Farm Regional Park
- Dakota County- Lake Byllesby Regional Park
- Ramsey County- Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park
- Three Rivers Park District- French Regional Park
- Washington County- Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park