

# Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2025

## Topic

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund FY2026-2027 Biennium Projects Overview and Equity Highlights

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.325 and 473.315; <i>Regional Parks Policy Plan</i> , Chapter 8, Finance Strategy 3
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Jessica Lee, Planning Analyst (651-602-1621)
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development

## Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed at this time.

## Background

The purpose of this information item is to present the Regional Park Implementing Agencies FY2026-2027 proposed project lists for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (PTLF) and to highlight PTLF projects designed to advance equity in the Regional Parks and Trails System. The PTLF was established to support parks and trails of statewide or regional significance after Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the State Constitution in 2008. The State Legislature appropriates a portion of the PTLF to the Council to distribute to the ten Regional Park Implementing Agencies each biennium. In preparation for this appropriation, the Council asks the Agencies to prepare a list of proposed projects to be shared with legislative policy makers during the upcoming legislative session.

The ten Agencies submitted a total of 63 proposed projects. About half of these projects are designed to take care of existing facilities or resources, such as improved wayfinding, trail redevelopment, facility and accessibility improvements, and natural resources restoration. The other half of the projects proposed are designed to connect people to the outdoors through programming, outreach, and education, or to create new opportunities such as implementing new long-range plans or acquiring land for new park development.

A summary of the proposed projects is included in Table 1 below. These projects are based on an appropriation and allocation estimate and are subject to change. Once the Legislature and Governor finalize the appropriation amount, staff will work with the agencies and their elected boards to finalize the project lists.

## Equity Highlights

The Council works with the ten agencies to understand and document how projects advance equitable use of the Regional Parks System. During the MPOSC presentation, each agency will feature one of these projects to help foster a system-wide discussion on how we are collectively advancing equitable use in the Regional Parks System.

Table 1. Proposed FY2026/2027 Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Program Projects

Regional Park Implementing Agency Projects	Project Summaries	Allocation Estimate
<b>Anoka County</b>		<b>\$4,533,565</b>
Bunker Hills Regional Park - Bunker Beach Lazy River Bridge Replacement and Slide Tower Improvements	Replace the lazy river bridge at Bunker Beach and Slide Tower Improvements	
Bunker Hills Regional Park - Park Improvements	Continue road, parking lot, trail and building improvements	
Agency-wide - Natural Resource Management	Contract with organizations or hire staff for natural resources and maintenance management throughout the regional system in Anoka County	
Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve - Reconstruct Beach Playground	Reconstruction of Centerville Beach playground	
<b>City of Bloomington</b>		<b>\$784,952</b>
Bloomington Regional Park and Trails	Projects to be determined after infrastructure inventory with Three Rivers Park District	
<b>Carver County</b>		<b>\$1,205,211</b>
Agency-wide Recreation and Volunteer Specialist	Develop and implement recreation and volunteer programs	
Agency-wide Parks Maintenance and Forestry Supervisor	Manages park and trail maintenance personnel, corresponding operations, and park assets of both built and natural environment	
Agency-wide Outreach	Funds will be used to staff and equip recreation programs, provide scholarships for those who meet income guidelines, and promote advertising, marketing and outreach activities	
Baylor Regional Park Phase I Redevelopment	Phase I development will consist of modernizing areas of the park including the visitor center, playground, beach area and campground	
<b>Dakota County</b>		<b>\$4,302,087</b>
Agency-wide Indigenous Liaison	Incorporate Indigenous cultural perspectives into Dakota County Park topics related to the reintroduction of bison at Spring Lake Park Reserve, culturally significant Indigenous sites within Dakota County park boundaries, and partnership opportunities	
Agency-wide Outreach Coordinator	Create and manage a community outreach and engagement program to increase and enhance use of Dakota County Parks by priority groups by focusing on activities that strengthen use of parks, engaging community and agencies, and developing relationships with community members	
Agency-wide Outreach Program Support	Continue to implement an integrated outreach and awareness program to increase participation and familiarity of the park system service offerings to Dakota County residents and increase new use throughout the park system	



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Lebanon Hills Regional Park Plant Propagation Program and UMN Extension Partnership	Staffing support will fully utilize the new greenhouse space at Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Additionally, continue to engage volunteers and partner with U of MN Extension's Dakota County Master Gardener Program to provide horticultural programming and plant propagation services.
Lebanon Hills and Lake Byllesby Regional Parks Campground Buildings and Beach House Renovations and Replacement Project	Construction administration and Construction of architectural and programmatic improvements to campground buildings and Beach House facilities
<b>Minneapolis Park &amp; Recreation Board</b> <b>\$11,617,060</b>	
Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement a variety of elements from the adopted long-range plan for this park area, as guided by additional community engagement at the inception of the implementation project
Grand Rounds Missing Link Implementation	Connect the Grand Rounds between the Mississippi River and St Anthony Parkway, through land acquisition and trail implementation
Minnehaha Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement a variety of elements from the adopted long-range plan for this park area, as guided by additional community engagement at the inception of the implementation project
North Mississippi Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement a variety of elements from the long-range plan currently in progress for this park area, as guided by community engagement and prioritization during the long-range planning process
Wirth/Victory Memorial Parkway Regional Trail Plan Implementation	Implement a variety of elements from the adopted long-range plans for this park area, as guided by additional community engagement at the inception of the implementation project
Above the Falls Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement a variety of elements from the adopted long-range plan for this park area, as guided by additional community engagement at the inception of the implementation project
Luce Line Regional Trail Plan Implementation	Acquire land for a new route of the Luce Line Trail through north Minneapolis, and begin implementation of that new trail corridor
Northeast Diagonal Regional Trail Rehabilitation and Enhancement	Improve trail surfacing, wayfinding, and visitor comfort facilities, and improve access points to the trail and connectivity to the Grand Rounds Missing Link
Ridgway Parkway Regional Trail Rehabilitation and Access Improvements	Improve trail surfacing, wayfinding, and visitor comfort facilities, and improve access points to the parkway and connectivity to the Grand Rounds Missing Link
St. Anthony Parkway Regional Trail Plan Implementation	Implement a variety of elements from the adopted long-range plan for this park area, as guided by additional community engagement at the inception of the implementation project

Theodore Wirth Regional Park Plan Implementation	Implement a variety of elements from the adopted long-range plan for this park area, as guided by additional community engagement at the inception of the implementation project
<b>Ramsey County</b> <b>\$4,522,697</b>	
Bald Eagle Otter Lake Regional Park Tamarack Nature Center Volunteer Coordinator	Continue to support a volunteer corps for the Tamarack Nature Center and Discovery Hallow
System-wide Outreach Programming	Continue to support outreach and outdoor recreation-based programming for people of color and low-income users throughout the Ramsey County Regional Parks & Trails system
System-wide Conservation Corps	Continue contracts with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) to engage youth in natural resource management projects throughout Ramsey County Regional Parks & Trails
System-wide Regional Park and Trail Sign Implementation	Design and install new regional park signs and wayfinding improvements
Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park Trail Enhancement and Site Improvements	Design, enhance, and construct trails that are resilient to environmental changes. Provide site amenities, enhanced access, and playground modifications
Long Lake Regional Park Site Infrastructure and Accessibility Upgrades	Planning, design, and engineering for parking lot maintenance/redevelopment, bituminous trail redevelopment, improved site accessibility and infrastructure, utilities, stormwater management, wayfinding, site amenities, and restoration
Long Lake Regional Park Boat Launch	Planning, design, and engineering for boat launch maintenance/redevelopment, bituminous trail redevelopment, improved site accessibility and infrastructure, utilities, stormwater management, wayfinding, site amenities, and restoration
Battle Creek Off Leash Dog Area Parking Lot Infrastructure and Accessibility Upgrades	Planning, design, and engineering for parking lot maintenance/redevelopment, bituminous trail redevelopment, improved site accessibility and infrastructure, utilities, stormwater management, wayfinding, site amenities, and restoration.
<b>City of Saint Paul</b> <b>\$5,959,799</b>	
Bruce Vento Regional Trail Eastside Heritage Skate Park	Construction of skate park at Eastside Heritage Park along Bruce Vento Regional Trail
Harriet Island RP Riverwalk Design	Conduct community engagement and Design reconstruction of the dilapidated riverfront promenade through Harriet Island
Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Long-Range Plan Implementation Phase V	Continued implementation of the Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm long-range plan
Indian Mounds Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment and Implementation	Development and implementation of new long-range plan for the Indian Mounds area to reflect its Cultural Landscape Study
Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Lower Landing Improvements	Construction of sport courts and other improvements in Lower Landing Park along Samuel Morgan Regional Trail

Phalen Regional Park Picnic Area Construction	Construction phase of new picnic pavilion and surrounding area at Lake Phalen
Agency-wide Long-term Vegetation Maintenance	Long-term maintenance of native vegetation established in other Legacy-funded projects
Agency-wide Great River Passage	Providing operating funds to lead initiatives for equitable access to regional parks along the Mississippi River
Agency-wide Volunteer & Education Coordinators	Continued funding of coordinator positions to connect, recruit, lead, and coordinate people to regional parks
JW Como Shuttle	Shuttle service to enhance access to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory
<b>Scott County</b>	<b>\$1,928,829</b>
Regional Park Pavilion	Design and construct new four-season pavilion for either Spring Lake, Cedar Lake Farm, or Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park
<b>Three Rivers Park District</b>	<b>\$12,310,792</b>
District-wide CCM, Contracts, etc. to Support Forestry-Horticulture Operations	District-wide CCM, contracts, etc. to support forestry-horticulture operations
District-wide Water Quality Improvements	District-wide water quality improvements
Bassett Creek Regional Trail Reconstruction Along 36th Ave	Reconstruction of the regional trail along 36th Ave between Zachary Ln and TH 169, as part of City of Plymouth-led 36th Ave reconstruction project
Elm Creek Park Reserve Grambarts Storage Building Exterior Rehab	Elm Creek Grambarts storage building exterior rehab
Hyland Park Reserve Operations Center Roof Replacement	Hyland operations center roof replacement (cost adjustment)
Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Reconstruction of CR 62 East and West Overpasses	Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail reconstruction of CR 62 east and west overpasses
Noerenberg Gardens Special Recreation Feature Carriage House Foundation/Basement Replacement	Carriage house foundation/basement replacement at the Noerenberg Gardens
Shingle Creek Regional Trail Design and Reconstruction Along Noble Ave in Brooklyn Park	Design and reconstruct the Shingle Creek Regional Trail along Noble Ave in Brooklyn Park
Shingle Creek Regional Trail Design, Realign, and Reconstruction in Brooklyn Center	Design, realign and reconstruct Shingle Creek Regional Trail in Brooklyn Center
Carver Park Reserve Road and Parking Lot Mill and Overlay	Carver Park Reserve road and parking lot mill and overlay - Parley, Springview, and Lowry NC

Lake Minnetonka Regional Park Reconstruction of Phase 2 Roads, Parking Lots, Trails, and Connector Trail to Hwy 7 Underpass	Lake Minnetonka Regional Park reconstruction of phase 2 roads, parking lots, park trails, and connector trail to Hwy 7 underpass
Baker Park Reserve Internal Katrina Trail Loop Reconstruction	Katrina internal trail loop reconstruction at Barker Park Reserve
French Regional Park Maintenance Parking Lot Mill and Overlay	French Regional Park maintenance parking lot mill and overlay
Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature Pavilion HVAC Replacement	Pavilion HVAC replacement at Gale Woods Farm
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve Energy Consumption Reduction: Solar Roof Installation at the Nursery	Solar roof installation at the Crow-Hassan Nursery
Bryant Lake Regional Trail Design and Construction in Minnetonka	Bryant Lake Regional Trail Design and Construction in Minnetonka
Eagle Lake Regional Trail Design and construction in Plymouth and Minnetonka	Eagle Lake Regional Trail Design and construction in Plymouth and Minnetonka
Region Trails Design and Construction: Wayfinding and Rest Areas at Cedar Lake, Medicine Lake, West Mississippi River and Crystal Lake Regional Trails	Design and construct wayfinding and rest areas at Cedar Lake, Medicine Lake, West Mississippi River and Crystal Lake Regional Trails
<b>Washington County</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$2,787,707</b></span>	
Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Extension	This project will extend the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail south to the county line
Big Marine Park Reserve Improvements	The project scope includes planning and design for improvements identified in the Long-Range Plan at Big Marine Park Reserve, including access, natural resources, recreation, and trails
St Croix Bluffs Regional Park Campground Improvements	The project scope includes planning and design for improvements to the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park campground, including campsite upgrades and play area improvements
Central Greenway Regional Trail - Lake Elmo Segment Feasibility Study	The project scope includes a feasibility study to address key design challenges within the City of Lake Elmo
<b>*Allocation amounts and projects are subject to change</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Total Funding \$49,952,699</b></span>	