

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: October 1, 2013

For the Community Development Committee meeting of October 7, 2013

Subject: Request for Reimbursement Consideration of five Dakota County Regional Park and Trails Projects

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC District H, Barbara Schmidt

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.315

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tori Dupre, Senior Planner (651-602-1621)

Division/Department: Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$918,000 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs for the following projects:

1. Park System-wide furnishings and site amenities \$43,000
Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans
2. Greenway-system wide furnishings and site enhancements \$90,000
Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans
3. Big Rivers Regional Trail trailhead design \$75,000
Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead
4. Lebanon Hills Regional Park connector trail construction \$420,000
Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan
5. North Urban Regional Trail - Mendota Heights/West St. Paul construction \$290,000
Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul

Acknowledge that the Council does not, under any circumstances, represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Background

On September 5, 2013, Dakota County requested that the Metropolitan Council consider authorizing eligibility for future reimbursement for five park and trail projects totaling \$918,000, from the County's share of future regional parks capital improvement programs. See **Attachment 1**. The five projects are as follows:

<u>Park System-wide</u> furnishings and site amenities Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans	\$43,000
<u>Greenway-system wide</u> furnishings and site enhancements Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans	\$90,000
<u>Big Rivers Regional Trail</u> trailhead design Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead	\$75,000
<u>Lebanon Hills Regional Park</u> connector trail construction Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan	\$420,000
<u>North Urban Regional Trail</u> - Mendota Heights/West St. Paul construction Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul	\$290,000

Rationale

Dakota County requests that these costs be considered for reimbursement from its share of future regional parks capital improvement programs. The request for reimbursement consideration is consistent with the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Finance Strategy 6, which states:

Finance Strategy 6: Reimbursement

"...Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan; that all information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project; and that the Council approves the project..."

The County's request meets the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost for the projects are consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plans for Big Rivers Regional Trail (MC action 1993 & 2012), Lebanon Hills Regional Park (MC action Aug 2001), and North Urban Regional Trail (MC action May 1997). The park and greenway system-wide furnishings and amenities are standard park and greenway facility improvements in all Dakota County master plans.
2. Dakota County's request provides sufficient information regarding what would be financed with a Council grant, meeting Finance Strategy 6 requirements. In this case, the information is outlined in Dakota County's letter **Attachment 1**.
3. Dakota County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for County expenditures toward these projects prior to undertaking them.

Funding

Funding for the future reimbursement of the projects may be awarded through Dakota County's share of Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). Metropolitan Council action is required to approve specific grants to Dakota County. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this request as it is consistent with Finance Strategy 6 from the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

Attachment 1: Letter from Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks



Physical Development Division

Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, Mn 55124-8579

952.891.7000
Fax 952.891.7031
www.dakotacounty.us

Environmental Resources
Land Conservation
Groundwater Protection
Surface Water
Waste Regulation
Environmental Initiatives

Office of Planning

Operations Management
Facilities Management
Fleet Management
Parks

Transportation
Highways
Surveyor's Office
Transit Office

September 16, 2013

Arne Stefferud
Manager of Parks and Natural Resource Unit
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Arne:

Dakota County requests Metropolitan Council consideration for authorizing eligibility for future reimbursement for the following projects and amounts. The approved Dakota County Park Capital Improvement Budget includes the use of County funds for the following projects:

- Park-system wide furnishings and site amenities \$43,000

Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans

- Greenway-system wide furnishings and site enhancements \$90,000

Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans

- Big Rivers Regional Trail trailhead design \$75,000

Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead.

- Lebanon Hills Regional Park connector trail construction \$420,000

Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan

- North Urban Regional Trail - Mendota Hts/WSP construction \$290,000

Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Sullivan, Director of Dakota County Parks

cc: Taud Hoopingarner, Operations Management Director
Stacy Reilly, Senior Financial Analyst