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**Sponsor:** Parks & Recreation

**Meeting Date:** 2/18/2025

**Title:** Grant Award from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for State Fiscal Year 2025 Conservation Partners Legacy Program

**File Number:** 2025-037

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**Background and Rationale:**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants program, funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund, created by the Minnesota Legislature through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. For State Fiscal Year 2025, \$2,500,000 was made available for metro grants, for projects located within the seven-county metro area or within city limits of cities with a population greater than 50,000.

The DNR manages the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants program to provide competitive matching grants from \$5,000 up to \$500,000 to local, regional, state, and national non-profit organizations and government entities. Grants must restore, protect, or enhance prairies, wetlands, forests, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. A minimum of 10% match is required for all grants, which may be cash or in-kind resources and must be identified at the time of application.

Grant applications are scored based on six criteria:

- 1) Overall project value
- 2) Applicant performance
- 3) Project benefits
- 4) Public benefits
- 5) Financial assessment
- 6) Urgency

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation submitted the grant application, the Lake Josephine Enhancement Project, and was awarded \$172,350 to restore 27 acres of woodlands and prairie surrounding a high value wetland through invasive species removal and control followed by native seeding within Lake Josephine County Park located in Roseville, Minnesota. The woodland and prairie remnant are currently dominated by dense buckthorn, woody invasives, invasive garlic mustard and invasive grasses, to name a few. After the woodland and prairie communities are healthy, they will provide much needed food and shelter for native pollinators, migratory birds and other wildlife. This restoration project will also reduce the spread of invasive species to other areas of the park, provide an improved experience for park visitors and have positive environmental impacts to the park, its neighbors, and the county.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for State Fiscal Year 2025 Conservation Partners Legacy program grant.
2. Accept and approve a grant award with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for State Fiscal Year 2025 Conservation Partners Legacy program grant for the Lake Josephine Enhancement Project grant for the period of grant execution through June 30, 2028, in the amount of \$172,350.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and contracts and execute amendments to agreements and contracts, in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Jebens-Singh, seconded by Commissioner McGuire.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By:   
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Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board