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**Sponsor:** Parks & Recreation

**Meeting Date:** 9/20/2022

**Title:** Cooperative Agreement with the City of Saint Paul for Winter Recreation Operations

**File Number:** 2022-496

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**Background and Rationale:**

In 2021, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation secured funding from the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment from the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota State Legislature bonding funds to build snowmaking infrastructure at Battle Creek Regional Park on 4 kilometers of cross-country ski trails and a sledding hill that is free to the public. Following other similar park agencies with manmade snow operations, such as at Theodore Wirth, Hyland Hills and Elm Creek, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation proposes to enact fees for use of this new facility to offset operational costs. The fees proposed are in line other similar facilities.

Additionally, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation are partnering to offer a joint ski pass system. These ski passes grant access to Ramsey County and the city of Saint Paul's winter recreation areas: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park, Tamarack Nature Center, Battle Creek Regional Park, Como Park Ski Center, Highland 9 Ski Area and Phalen Regional Park, and offers annual passes for skiing solely on natural snow, an "All-Access" pass that includes natural and manmade snow loops, day passes and student passes, as well as ski rentals, giving residents a variety of options for participating in winter recreation. Passes will be sold jointly online, as well as onsite at Saint Paul's Battle Creek Recreation Center and Como Ski Area, and Ramsey County's Tamarack Nature Center. This joint ski pass is a Resident's First solution that is comprehensive and simple for residents in the county. Additionally, this agreement identifies some shared use of the Battle Creek Recreation Center for Winter Recreation Area operations. City of Saint Paul Recreation is making investments in the Battle Creek Recreation Center including providing areas to store and check out cross country ski equipment for trail users. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is cost sharing for a total of \$25,000 for the investments being made in the Battle Creek Recreation Center. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation have agreed upon a revenue share from the ski pass sales as is illustrated within the cooperative agreement.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Cooperative Agreement with the city of Saint Paul, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55102 for a joint ski pass system and shared use of the Battle Creek Recreation center for the period of September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the cooperative agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to renew the cooperative agreement up to four additional one-year terms with all other terms and conditions remaining the same, in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office.
4. Authorize a one-time payment of \$25,000 to the city of Saint Paul to support winter sports programming capital investments at Battle Creek Recreation Center.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By:   
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board