
Sponsor: Parks & Recreation

Meeting Date: 10/5/2021

Title: Grant Awards from the Metropolitan Council for Legacy
Amendment Parks and Trails Fund Projects

File Number: 2021-519

Background and Rationale:

Minnesota Management and Budget has budgeted an appropriation of \$43,861,000 from the Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails Fund for the Metropolitan Council to provide grants to the Regional Park implementing agencies for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) and 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023). The funding allocation is based on a statutory formula. Ramsey County has been allocated \$1,827,856 for SFY 2022 and \$1,656,274 for SFY 2023.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation includes the anticipated Legacy project funding requests in the county's six-year Capital Improvement Program Plan, although project priorities are subject to change. The following projects were submitted to the Metropolitan Council as Legacy funding requests for SFY 2022 and SFY 2023, as outlined in the following chart:

| Park, Trail or Project Description | SFY 2022 | SFY 2023 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ramsey County Regional Parks and Trails System - Outreach for nature and outdoor recreation-based programming for people of low income and people of color | \$125,000 | \$125,000 |
| Ramsey County Regional Parks and Trails System - Conservation Corps of MN | \$110,000 | \$110,000 |
| Bald Eagle Otter Lakes Regional Park - Volunteer Corps for Tamarack Nature Center and Discovery Hollow) | \$75,000 | \$75,000 |
| Ramsey County Regional Parks and Trail - System-wide Off-leash Dog Area Improvements | \$200,000 | |
| Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park - Trail Enhancements and Site Improvements | \$1,346,274 | \$510,700 |
| Battle Creek Regional Park - Battle Creek Winter Recreation Improvements | | \$807,156 |
| Total Parks and Trails Legacy Amendment Funding | \$1,827,856 | \$1,656,274 |

The approved grant funds for SFY 2022 were available for use beginning July 1, 2021 and will have a grant period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025. SFY 2023 funding amounts have been provided based on SFY 2023 funding appropriations and from submitted Legacy grant applications. Any adjustments to SFY 2023 funding amounts will be updated in SFY Grant contracts. Grant contracts for SFY 2023 are expected to be ready for execution before the end of 2022 and will have a grant period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026.

Funding through the Legacy program provides improvements to the regional parks and trails within Ramsey County. The projects create safe places, build a sense of community, protect, restore, and preserve the environment. Project plans will offer opportunities for community engagement during the development phases.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to the Metropolitan Council for Parks and Trails Legacy Amendment funding for regional park projects for State Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.
2. Accept grant awards from and approve grant agreements with the Metropolitan Council for Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails Fund projects for the periods of July 1, 2021 through June 31, 2025 in the total amounts of \$1,827,856 for State Fiscal Year 2022 and \$1,656,274 for State Fiscal Year 2023.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreements.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and contracts and 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.
5. Authorize the County Manager to make temporary cash loans, as needed, from the General Fund to the Parks and Recreation Department to implement these projects until funds are received, with repayment to be made when funds are available.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Frethem. Motion passed.

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

By: 
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board