



# Community Development Committee

**Business Item**

Item: 2008-153

**Meeting date: June 16, 2008**

<b>ADVISORY INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	June 16, 2008
<b>Subject:</b>	2008 Unified Operating Budget Amendment
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	MN Statute 473.13 – Council Budget Requirements
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Ann Beckman, Regional Growth Strategy Manager (651-602-1669) Guy Peterson, Director (651-602-1418)
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development Division

## Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2008 Unified Operating Budget to authorize the expenditure of up to \$500,000 in general revenue funds to establish a Regional Parks Foundation.

## Background

This request will be presented to the Management Committee on June 25th, and the Council on July 9<sup>th</sup> as part of a consolidated request.

## Background

The Metropolitan Council has been exploring the idea of forming a regional parks foundation for the past year. A grant was received from the McKnight Foundation to conduct a feasibility study in partnership with the Trust for Public Land. Legislative authorization was obtained by the Metropolitan Council to form the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities. The purpose of the Regional Parks Foundation will be to assist governmental units to acquire land for regional parks and trails.

## Rationale

- There are no policy issues relating to this resolution.

## Funding

The Metropolitan Council received authorization from the state legislature to establish a regional park foundation for the purpose of soliciting private contributions for the acquisition of new regional park lands.

Pursuant to that legislation, the Council is authorized to provide some funding and other assistance to help create and establish the foundation, and is required to report back to the Legislature in 2009.

To date, the Council has spent \$51,000 on legal services to draft the articles of incorporation, by-laws and policies for the Foundation. The Council has also incurred expenses spent about \$42,000 on staff time, and miscellaneous expenses for the foundation.

If this action is approved, the Council proposes to contribute \$250,000 as a founding gift to the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities. Other anticipated expenses in 2008-09 are:

\$25,000	web-site launch
\$15,000	postage and printing
<u>\$25,000</u>	contingencies
\$65,000	Subtotal

Additional staff time of \$92,000 is anticipated for the first two years of the park foundations operations. Staff time is already included in the Council budget.

Regional Park Foundation summary:

\$51,000	formation expenses
\$250,000	founding contribution
\$65,000	organizational expenses
<u>\$134,000</u>	staff and in-kind expenses
\$500,000	Subtotal

Remaining legislative authorization \$0

### **Known Support / Opposition**

The Parks and Trail Council of Minnesota is a known supporter of the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities. Many of the parks implementing agencies are very supportive of the idea. There is no identified opposition to this initiative.