



Community Development Committee

Management Committee: June 24, 2009

Metropolitan Council: July 8, 2009

Meeting date: June 15, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	June 4, 2009
Subject:	2009-2014 Capital Improvement Plan and 2009 Capital Program and Budget Amendment
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2009 Capital Program and Budget
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arne Stefferud (651-602-1360) Alan Morris, Principal Financial Analyst (651-602-1446)
Division/Department:	Community Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2009 Parks and Open Space Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) by adding \$ 15,530,000 in new spending authority.
- Amend the 2009 Parks and Open Space Capital Budget (Annual Appropriation) by adding \$6,490,000 in new appropriations.
- Approve changes as detailed in Attachment 1.

Background

The proposed capital amendment provides the authority to spend funds appropriated to the Council for parks grants by the 2009 State Legislature. Additional state funding was provided in several areas.

Park Acquisition Opportunity Grants (2009 Session Law, Chapters 143 and 172)

The Metropolitan Council awards acquisition opportunity grants to park agencies to help them buy land within Metro Council-approved regional park or trail master plan boundaries. Park agencies may receive up to \$1.7 million per year in grants. Grants are awarded as needed when land is available to purchase from willing sellers. These grants are comprised of State funds and Metro Council bonds, which together finance 75% of acquisition costs. Park agencies must provide the remaining 25%.

The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$2,550,000 in Fiscal Year 2010 and \$1,514,000 in Fiscal Year 2011 for this program from two funding sources. Metropolitan Council bonds match the State appropriations with \$2 of Council bonds matching \$3 of State appropriations, which results in a \$1.7 million Council bond match for FY 2010 and a \$1,009,000 match for FY 2011. Regional park agencies must provide a \$1 match to every \$3 of State and Metro Council funds (25%).

The proposed amendment provides spending authority for the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriation of \$2,550,000, including \$1,290,000 in funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and \$1,260,000 in funding from the Parks and Trails Fund. Park Acquisition Opportunity Grants will be listed in future Unified Capital Budget amendments when they are authorized.

Parks and Trails Fund Legacy Amendment (2009 Session Law, Chapter 172)

Last November the voters approved an amendment to the State's constitution that raised the sales tax 3/8ths percent for the next 25 years. This new revenue is dedicated into four accounts--including the "Parks and Trails Fund". Revenue in the Parks and Trails Fund must be spent to "support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance." This can include expenditures to operate and maintain parks and trails, as well as expenditures

for land acquisition and capital improvements. These appropriations must supplement—not supplant traditional funding sources.

The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$12,640,000 from the Parks and Trails Fund for Fiscal Year 2010 to the Metropolitan Council for the following purposes:

- An earmark appropriation of \$40,000 for a grant to Hennepin County to plant trees along Victory Memorial Parkway.
- \$1,260,000 for Park Acquisition Opportunity Grants described in the previous section of this memorandum.
- \$11,340,000 for grants to the regional park agencies that is disbursed under a formula in the law. Based on this formula, the amount allocated to each park agency is shown in the table below.

Parks and Trails Fund FY 2010 appropriation for grants to Regional Park Agencies

Park Agency	Allocation to the Park Agency
Anoka County	\$ 1,103,000
City of Bloomington	\$ 195,000
Carver County	\$ 205,000
Dakota County	\$ 904,000
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	\$ 2,688,000
Ramsey County	\$ 974,000
City of St. Paul	\$ 1,765,000
Scott County	\$ 246,000
Three Rivers Park District	\$ 2,665,000
Washington County	\$ 595,000
Total	\$11,340,000

The proposed amendment includes spending authority for the Fiscal Year 2010 portion of the appropriation, described above. As grants for projects from each park agency’s allocation are executed, amendments to the Unified Capital Budget will be made illustrating those grants.

State Pass-through Grants (2009 Laws of MN, Chapter 93, Section 12, Subd. 3)

The 2009 State bonding bill included the following appropriations to the Metropolitan Council as pass-through grants: \$600,000 for a grant to the City of Minneapolis to acquire land for and to pre-design and design a bridge for St. Anthony Parkway over the Northtown Rail Yard and \$1,000,000 for a grant to the City of Minneapolis to better the Veterans of World War I Victory Memorial Parkway portion of the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council, through its Parks and Open Space Program, places high priority on using available state funding for the acquisition, development and redevelopment of the regional park system. This capital program amendment helps achieve this goal.

Funding and Fiscal Impact

This funding for this proposed capital program amendment comes from state appropriations from the 2009 State Legislative session. This amendment is consistent with the approved capital improvement plan. The proposed amendment is also consistent with the Council stated goal to keep the impact of Council property taxes on existing regional taxpayers flat over time.

Known Support / Opposition

None known.

