

C Community Development Committee
Meeting date: September 17, 2012
For the Council Meeting of October 24, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: September 12, 2012
Subject: 2013-18 Proposed Regional Parks Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: M.S. 473.147
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arne Stefferud; Acting Manager—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit
Division/Department: Community Development Division

Proposed Action

None. This is information regarding the 2013-18 Proposed Regional Parks Capital Improvement Plan portion of the 2013 Unified Capital Program.

Background

Minnesota Statute 473.147 authorizes the Metropolitan Council to prepare a multi-year capital improvement program for the Metropolitan Regional Parks System. This is a briefing on the 2013-18 Proposed Regional Parks Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It is part of the 2013 Unified Capital Program, which the Council will conduct a public hearing on later this autumn.

Rationale

The Regional Parks Capital Improvement Plan allocates State appropriations and Metropolitan Council bonds among the ten regional park implementing agencies. The allocations are based on formulas in the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and State law. This briefing illustrates the amount of existing/authorized spending and planned spending based on reasonable assumptions. It also illustrates the amount each park agency may receive in planned spending in calendar years 2013-14 based on those assumptions and following the applicable allocation formula.

Funding

This briefing illustrates the existing/authorized spending of \$63.3 million and \$124.3 million of planned spending. The Regional Parks CIP is financed with State appropriations (State bonds, Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, and Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund) as well as bonds issued by the Metropolitan Council. The Council bond amount is consistent with the authorization to issue up to \$40 million in Minnesota Statute 473.325

Known Support / Opposition

The proposed spending plan is consistent with applicable State laws and Council policies. Projects financed from the CIP must be consistent with regional park and trail master plans approved by the Metropolitan Council. Since those plans are prepared by the regional park agency that owns/manages that park or trail unit, the projects funded from the CIP are supported by that park agency and are the highest priority capital needs for that park agency.