

C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: December 17, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	December 11, 2012
Subject:	Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Recommendation
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Laws of MN 2011, First Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 3, Section 7(f)
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arne Stefferud
Division/Department:	Community Development/Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Proposed Action

Briefing by Environmental Initiative on the recommendations of a nine-member Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group for the allocation of Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations between the State Parks and Trails System, the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System and Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails.

Background

In 2008, Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The Legacy Amendment is funded by a three-eighths of one percent state sales tax. 14.25 percent of the funds raised are dedicated to supporting parks and trails of State and regional significance throughout the State or about \$1.26 billion over 25 years.

Over the first four years the Parks and Trails Legacy allocations proved challenging and contentious. There was not clear agreement at the State Legislature or among the parks and trails interests on how best to distribute the funds. The 2011 State Legislature passed a law directing the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to convene and facilitate a nine-member work group representing the State Parks and Trails System, the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System and Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails. They were directed to develop consensus recommendations to the Governor for the allocation of the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget.

Metropolitan Council Chair Susan Haigh appointed three persons to the work group to represent the Metropolitan Regional Parks System:

Greg Mack, Ramsey County Parks Director

Bob Bierscheid, retired City of St. Paul Parks Director

John Gunyou, former Minnesota Commissioner of Finance, City Manager of Minnetonka and recently elected to Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners

In April 2012, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources contracted with Environmental Initiative to manage and facilitate the work group. Environmental Initiative will present the work group's recommendations to the Community Development Committee at the December 17th meeting. Attachment 1 contains the

Executive Summary of the recommendations. Members of the work group appointed by Chair Haigh will also be present to answer questions.

Rationale

The briefing is to provide Metropolitan Council members the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group recommendations and an opportunity for Council members to ask questions of the persons representing the Metropolitan Regional Parks System on the Funding Work Group.

Funding

Approximately \$40 million per year of Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations are authorized to support parks and trails of State and Regional significance. A portion of this amount is appropriated to the Metropolitan Council and disbursed to the 10 regional park implementing agencies under a statutory formula in MN Statute 85.53.

Known Support / Opposition

On November 21, the recommendations of the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group were presented to Metropolitan Council Chair Haigh, DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr and Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Coalition Chair Al Lieffort. They endorsed the recommendations and submitted them to the Governor. (Attachment 2)

On November 29, Metropolitan Council members received a letter from the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board that raises concerns about the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group recommendations. (Attachment 3)

A Metro Council staff analysis of the Funding Work Group's recommendation was done to calculate the benefits of the allocation between residents of the Metro Area and Greater Minnesota. It found that the Funding Work Group's allocation of 40% for Metro Regional Parks and Trails, 40% for DNR Parks and Trails and 20% Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails provides relatively equitable benefits to residents of the Metro Area and Greater Minnesota in proportion to their share of the State's population. (Attachment 4)

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

Work Group Recommendations

Executive Summary

November 2012

Minnesota has a world-class network of parks and trails providing access to pristine lakes and rivers, prairies, forests, paved trails, horse trails and off-road areas. In 2008, Minnesota voters chose to invest in these resources and passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The Legacy Amendment is funded by a three-eighths of one percent state sales tax. 14.25 percent of the funds raised are dedicated to supporting parks and trails of state and regional significance throughout Minnesota, about \$1.26 billion over 25 years.

Over the first two bienniums Parks and Trails Legacy Funding allocations proved challenging and contentious. There was not clear agreement at the State Legislature or among the parks and trails interests on how best to distribute funds. The 2011 State Legislature passed a law directing the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to convene and facilitate a nine-member working group to develop consensus recommendations for the allocation of the Parks and Trails Fund.¹

In April 2012, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources contracted with Environmental Initiative to manage and facilitate a nine-member working group to develop consensus recommendations and accompanying rationale for Parks and Trails Funding allocations for the FY 2014-2015 biennium and beyond. After six meetings, the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group (Work Group) reached consensus on an interim agreement for Parks and Trails Legacy Funding allocations to the major state and regional providers. The agreement includes the following elements:

Establish a Fund to Coordinate Among Partners

Set aside 0.50% of the total funding allocation to support coordinated activities among the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails and Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails. Activities may include: enhanced, integrated, and accessible web-based information for park and trail users; joint-marketing and promotional efforts for all parks and trails of state and regional significance; and support for the activities of the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee. The Work Group recommends 0.50% for this purpose, but for the first five years, half of this amount (0.25%) should fund capacity building activities in Greater Minnesota, as identified below. This means for FY 2014 – FY 2018, the Coordinate Among Partners Fund will total 0.25%. In FY 2019, the Coordinate Among Partners Fund will total 0.50%.

Provide Resources for Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Capacity Building Activities from the Coordinate Among Partners Fund for Five Years

For FY 2014-2018, set aside 0.25% of the total funding allocation to support capacity building efforts for the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Coalition. Funding would provide resources for the coalition to determine visitation data, operating expenditures and implement other outcomes from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan, such as system planning at a regional level.² In FY 2019, the total funding for the Coordinate Among Partners Fund will be the full 0.50%.

¹ Laws of Minnesota, 2011 First Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 3, Section 7(f).

² Laws of Minnesota, 2011 First Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 3, Section 3(c)(2).

Percentage Allocations for Minnesota Parks and Trails of State and Regional Significance

After significant and intense deliberations, the Work Group arrived at a recommendation to allocate the Park and Trails Legacy Funds for three bienniums (FY 2014-2019). The recommendation is based on Minnesota's population distribution and an understanding of how Minnesota park and trail provider systems serve the nature-based needs of citizens. The Work Group explored numerous criteria on which to base a funding formula, but in the end determined there was not current, consistent or available data from the three providers, particularly the new Greater Minnesota system. As such, establishing a criteria-based formula to allocate Legacy Funding posed a challenge. The Work Group proposes the following interim recommendation:

- 40% – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- 40% – Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails
- 20% – Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails

Increase Flexibility of Parks and Trails Legacy Funding to Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails

The Work Group recommends broadening eligible uses of grants for Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails to include activities that connect people to the outdoors, such as programming, parks and trail master planning, and marketing activities. This will provide Greater Minnesota the same flexibility in spending Legacy Funds currently available to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails.

Term of Recommendation

The Work Group recommends distributing Parks and Trails Legacy Funds utilizing this approach for the next three biennial budgets:

- FY 2014 – 2015
- FY 2016 – 2017
- FY 2018 – 2019

This interim approach will allow for consistent data gathering across all provider systems so future allocations can be made using objective data.

Criteria and Process to Consider for Future Allocations

As part of its ongoing role to ensure implementation of the *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan*, the Work Group recommends the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee work in partnership with park and trail providers to identify consistent and common sets of data on which to base future allocations. The data should be objective and include such metrics as population, population growth, park acres, trail miles, visitation and operating expenditures.

Questions?

Contact Emily Franklin 612-334-3388 ext. 114 // efranklin@environmental-initiative.org



Attachment 2: Transmittal of Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group
Recommendations to Governor Dayton

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



December 4, 2012

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor
Minnesota State Capitol – Room 130
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Honorable Governor Dayton:

Attached please find the “*Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Recommendation*” for your consideration as you prepare your FY2014-15 budget. The work group prepared this report, as directed by the *Laws of Minnesota*, 2011 First Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 3, Section 3, Subd. (f), which state:

“(f) The commissioner of natural resources shall convene and facilitate a working group of nine members to develop consensus recommendations for the allocation of the parks and trails fund. The working group shall have representatives from metropolitan parks and trails, greater Minnesota parks and trails, and the Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division. The consensus recommendations shall be submitted no later than November 15, 2012, and presented to the governor for consideration in the budget for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.”

Over the past two biennia, the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund allocations have been challenging and contentious. This recommendation, the culmination of more than six months of difficult conversations, provides a pathway forward as an interim agreement for the next three biennia (FY2014-19). It includes:

- The creation of a fund to incentivize continued coordination among park and trails providers, as well as a creation of a five-year fund to support capacity-building for the Greater Minnesota Regional Park and Trail Coalition.
- A framework to allocate funds over the next three biennia, as follows:
 - 40% for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 - 40% for the Metropolitan Regional park and trail providers
 - 20% for the Greater Minnesota Regional park and trail providers
- Draft criteria and a process to consider for future allocations, beyond the three-biennium, interim agreement.

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This is a very significant achievement for all Minnesotans, as it honors the cooperative spirit of the original Legacy Amendment. The members of the workgroup, as represented by the cosigners below, support and commit to working within this framework. Your support for the work group recommendations would be deeply appreciated. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Tom Landwehr, Commissioner
Minnesota DNR



Susan Haigh, Chair
Metropolitan Council



Al Lieffort, Coalition Chair
Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails

Copy: The Honorable Bill G. Ingebrigtsen, State Senator
The Honorable Denny McNamara, State Representative
The Honorable Jean Wagenius, State Representative
The Honorable Phyllis Kahn, State Representative
The Honorable David J. Tomassoni, State Senator
The Honorable David Dill, State Representative
The Honorable John Marty, State Senator

Attachment 3: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board letter regarding Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Recommendations



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Metropolitan Council

NOV 29 2012

Received Chair's Office

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Mark Dayton
Metropolitan Area Legislators and County Commissioners
Minneapolis and St. Paul City Council Members
Metropolitan Council Members
Special Park District Members

FROM: John Erwin, President, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

DATE: November 26, 2012

RE: Constitutionally Dedicated Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

I am writing to alert you to what we believe is a very serious and important issue concerning the allocation of constitutionally dedicated Legacy Amendment funds. I believe this deserves the attention of Legislators, County Commissioners, Metropolitan Council Members, City Council Members and special park districts from the entire metropolitan area.

In 2008, Minnesota approved a constitutional amendment to raise the state sales tax by 3/8ths of 1% for 25 years and dedicated the proceeds to four separate environmental and cultural heritage accounts. The Legacy Amendment currently generates about \$300,000,000 annually. The amendment was approved by 56% of the voters. Seven-county metro area voters approved the amendment by 61.5%. The metro area makes up 54% of the state's population and generates 64% of Minnesota's sales tax. Yet, we believe the seven-county metropolitan area has not received a fair allocation of these funds. Further, unless sufficient attention is given to this issue, we believe the metro area will continue to be disadvantaged in these funding decisions.

Over \$300,000,000 in Legacy funds are appropriated annually by the Legislature from four separate and distinct accounts. Those accounts are as follows: The \$100,000,000 Outdoor Heritage Fund, which goes to protect, enhance and restore fish and wildlife habitat with recommendations put forth by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC); the \$100,000,000 Clean Water Fund, which received recommendations from the Clean Water Council; the \$40,000,000 Parks and Trails Fund, which is dedicated to parks and trails of statewide or regional significance and is subject to legislative review and

appropriation; and the \$60,000,000 Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund subject to legislative review and appropriation.

In the first four years of appropriations for the Legacy amendment, we have noticed a disproportionate share of these monies going to Greater Minnesota, particularly in the Outdoor Heritage fund where over 90% of all appropriations go outstate. Funding for water resource is more difficult to track, but it appears to us again that a vast majority of the dedicated funds go to Greater Minnesota. The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund appears to be distributed according to where needs are at, with a significant portion going to the metropolitan area.

We have specific concerns about the Parks and Trails Legacy funding. In the first biennium after the Legacy amendment was approved by the voters, metro parks received 43% of the Park and Trail fund; State Parks received about 43% of that money; and 14% went to a DNR grant program for regional parks throughout the state, mainly (but not exclusively) in rural Minnesota. When accounting for a portion of the DNR money which was allocated to the three State Parks in the metro area and a portion of the grants that were allocated to park systems in the metro area, about 50% of the Park and Trail Legacy funds came into the metro area. We felt this was a fair and equitable distribution considering fifty-four percent (54%) of the population of Minnesota resides in the seven-county metropolitan area, 64% of the state's sales tax that funds the Legacy amendment is collected from the metropolitan area and the metro area is expected to grow by 1,000,000 people over the next twenty years.

In the last biennium, rural park advocates organized and requested that Park Legacy funds be divided equally among three park systems – 1/3 to the Metro Regional Parks, 1/3 to the DNR State Parks, and 1/3 to a new entity called Rural Regional Parks. Despite strong metropolitan area opposition, this group was quite successful in making major changes to the Legacy formula such that the Metro Regional Park share was reduced to approximately 42%, with the DNR State Parks receiving 38% and rural parks receiving 20%. This shift greatly diminished resources which were coming to the metropolitan area as well as to the State Park system. This was a very significant shift in percentages and funding. In real dollar terms, it cost the Metro Regional Parks \$6,400,000 for this biennium compared to last. Extended to the expiration of the Legacy amendment in 2034, the metro area will lose over \$64,000,000 in current dollars, well over \$100,000,000 if adjusted for inflation, compared to what it would receive under the first biennium's distribution system.

In 2011, the Legislature created a Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Committee to make recommendations on how to spend constitutionally dedicated Legacy Amendment Parks and Trail funds. The task force consisted of members of the DNR, the metro area and rural park advocates. That group met over the summer and formalized its plan this fall. They will be coming to the Legislature with a recommendation that over the next six years, the Legislature should appropriate 40% to the Metro Regional Parks, 40% to the DNR State Parks, and 20% to Rural Regional Parks.

This formula would allow 128 parks in Greater Minnesota to be considered "regional" parks on par with the currently existing 75 DNR State Parks and 51 Metro Regional Parks. In essence, the number of recognized parks eligible for constitutionally dedicated Legacy funding would double. However, little or no data exists to define why many of these parks should be considered "regional." When combined with the 72 State Parks in Greater Minnesota and the new 128 parks in Greater Minnesota, 200 parks or 80% of all parks eligible for Legacy funds would now be located outside the seven-county metro area, while only 54 (51 Metro Regional Parks and three State Parks) would be located in the metro area. Simply said, we view the Park and Trail Legacy Funding Committee recommendation as nothing short of disastrous to the Metro Regional Park system. We also believe it is an incredibly short-sighted way to plan long-term for parks.

As policy makers from the metropolitan area, you are all familiar with regional fights over transportation issues such as lane miles which treat our highways the same as rural highways, local government aid (LGA) distribution, SCORE funding and other matters. Each of these formulas disproportionately disadvantages the metro area. We see Park Legacy funding going in the same direction without a united intervention in the next session. The recommendations of the DNR Parks and Trails Funding Committee do not serve metro area residents or taxpayers. Quite frankly, metro area taxpayers and park users will get shortchanged. We also believe that it is not in the long-term interest of the State to designate 200 parks in Greater Minnesota as recognized state and regional assets to serve a population which is significantly smaller than that of the metro area. It just simply isn't fair.

The Metro Regional Park system had 44,000,000 annual user visits in 2011. On any given day, over 100,000 Minnesotans recreate in these facilities. The annual operating budget for the system is approximately \$90 million. Despite the fact that law calls for the state to provide 40% of the operating costs, only about ten percent of that cost is provided by the state. The remaining 90% of the cost to operate and maintain the system falls largely to local property taxpayers. By comparison, the DNR State Park system has about 9,000,000 user visits a year and consists of 240,000 acres with an annual operating budget of about \$56,000,000.

The Met Council oversees the criteria for determining what a regional park is. It is important to note that regional parks are not local playgrounds or tot lots. They are parks which are significant in size (from 100 to 5,000 acres), are used by more than just local residents, and/or have distinct geological or recreational attributes. Similarly, the DNR and the Legislature establish criteria for determining what a State Park is. At this time, an informal group of out-state county officials and park advocates is attempting to quantify its needs, but there are no similar administrative system set up for determining what a "rural regional park" is with regard to size, usership, annual budget, or other attributes.

The Metro Regional Park system is one of the best health care plans the state can invest in, as it helps keep the population healthy and active. On a per unit basis, it is the cheapest health club membership you can buy. Our magnificent urban and suburban park systems are often noted

in both business advertisements and residential real estate marketing as major attractions and contribute in measurable ways to the quality of our lives and sustainability of our communities.

The decision to allocate these funds on a 40% metro, 40% DNR State Park, and 20% rural regional park formula will result in nearly 60% of these funds being diverted outstate and defies two major legislative reports on the topic. More importantly, the recommendation is to lock this formula into law for three biennia.

Just after the Legacy Amendment passed, in 2009 the Legislature directed the DNR to develop a 25-year long range parks and trails legacy plan. After extensive public hearings, including hearings throughout the state involving over 1,000 people, that plan recommended four strategic directions or pillars on which to base future Legacy Parks and Trails Fund appropriations. According to the report, the goals of the four pillars are to:

- Connect people to the outdoors – giving people more and better park opportunities will better develop Minnesota’s stewards of tomorrow through efforts to increase life-long participation in parks and trails
- Acquire land and create opportunities – use the funding to create new and expanded park and trail opportunities to satisfy current customers as well as to reach out to new ones
- Take care of what we have – provide safe, high quality park and trail experiences by regular re-investment in park and trail infrastructure and natural resource management
- Coordinate among partners – enhance cooperation across the large and complex network of public, private, and non-profit partners that support Minnesota’s parks and trails to ensure seamless, enjoyable park and trail experiences for Minnesotans

Following these criteria, we think funding the Metro Regional Parks and State Parks should be the top priority. The Metro Regional Parks record of user visits, intelligent planning and acquisitions, its built infrastructure, and economical uses of resources demonstrates tremendous effectiveness. The DNR system also rates exceptionally well on these same metrics. We do agree that investments should be made in large growth outstate areas such as the St. Cloud/Stearns County area, and Rochester/Olmstead, Wright, Sherburne, and Isanti Counties, but not to the detriment of other more established park systems.

Also in 2009, the Legislature commissioned a \$600,000 study by the University of Minnesota to evaluate park systems across the entire state. The university study, which looked at all public land throughout the state, determined that there was an abundance of park land in many rural areas of the state. The university’s study determined that the need for park land was greatest in growing population centers. The university used the metric of Recreational Land Quotient (RLQ) to determine need. In essence, the RLQ formula relates population to available park land. The RLQ said that the metropolitan area and growing counties such as Stearns, Olmstead, Wright, Sherburne and Isanti need more parks. That report also contained information essential to the decision on how to allocate Legacy dollars. These two important documents provided important guidance for anyone in a decision making position for allocating Park and

Trail Fund dollars. We do not believe the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Committee properly considered these reports in making its recommendation.

Currently, there are 54 state or regional parks serving the 2,681,370 people living in the Metropolitan Area. This means there are 49,655 people for every park. The proposal to have 200 parks in Greater Minnesota serving a population of 2,498,400 means there will be 12,242 people per park. This results in a 4 to 1 ratio of parks to people in Greater Minnesota compared to the Metropolitan Area. We respectfully ask if this is a wise choice by state policy makers?

The unbalanced treatment of the metro area in Legacy funding decisions is not confined to parks. Early this year, the metro park implementing agencies jointly submitted a proposal to the LSOHC requesting approximately \$6.5 million out of the \$100,000,000 Outdoor Heritage Fund for habitat protection and conservation improvements in the metro area. We viewed this a a modest request. After encouragement from legislators and staff help from the LSOHC, the ten implementing agencies were hopeful this reasonable request would be considered. Surprisingly, this joint request of the Metro Regional Park system was rejected and not even given a hearing by the LSOHC. This was truly unfortunate.

As policy makers, we respectfully ask that you, your professional staff and your lobbyists engage fully in reviewing these Legacy issues before the next legislative session.

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board will be working zealously to advocate for more equitable funding for the Metropolitan Regional Park system. As many of you know, the issues regarding funding between Greater Minnesota and the metro area have been contentious. Simply acceding to the efforts of a working group which had very little metropolitan representation would be a disservice to our residents and taxpayers. I have attached a sheet summarizing the information I discussed in this memo. We would be glad to provide you more information on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



John Erwin
President

cc: Metropolitan Regional Parks Implementing Agency Superintendents
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Members
Jaime Tincher, Office of Governor Mark Dayton

**PARK AND TRAIL LEGACY FUND
GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

	Number of Parks	FY12 Legacy Appropriations	Task Force Recommendation	Operating Budget	Annual User Visits
Metro Regional Parks	51	\$15,763,000	\$16,000,000	\$86,239,884	43,924,400
	(22%)	(42%)	(40%)	(59%)	(81.1%)
State Parks	75	\$14,262,000	\$16,000,000	\$56,250,000	9,000,000
	(29%)	(38%)	(40%)	(39%)	(16.6%)
Rural Regional Parks*	128	\$7,506,000	\$8,000,000	\$10,000,000	1,200,000
	(50%)	(20%)	(20%)	(2%)	(2.2%)
Totals	254	\$37,531,000	\$40,000,000	\$152,489,884	54,124,400

*Estimated numbers for operating budget provided during Task Force meetings; visitor usage from 2005 LCMR report

Percentage of Legacy Funding to total operating budget	(40/40/20 formula)
Metro Regional Parks	18.6%
State Parks	28.4%
Rural Regional Parks	80.0%

Legacy \$ per user visit	(40/40/20 formula)
Metro Regional Parks	0.36
State Parks	1.78
Rural Regional Parks	6.67

	Metro Area	Outstate
Population	2,681,370	2,448,400
% of Population	54.3%	45.7%
State or Regional Parks	54	200
People per park	49,655	12,242
Source of Sales Tax	64%	34%
Est. Distribution of Legacy Funds Under Proposed Formula	42%	58%

Attachment 4: Retrospective Analysis of Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Recommendation (Arne Stefferud, Metropolitan Council)

This is an analysis of the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group’s allocation. The premise of the analysis is to calculate the share of benefits received by residents of the Metro Area and Greater Minnesota and compare that to the population share of each area of the State.

The first step in the analysis was to calculate the share of visits to the State Parks System between residents of the Metro Area and Greater Minnesota. This is shown in Table 1 below. After excluding visitors from Out-of-State, and only counting visits by residents of Minnesota, 45% of those visits are by persons who live in the Metro Area and 55% are by persons who live in Greater Minnesota.

Table 1: Residence of State Park Visitors

	% of State Park Visitors sorted by residence	Number of visitors per 1,000	Number of visits by MN residents	% of MN resident visits to State Parks between Metro and Greater MN
Out of State tourists	16%	160	NA	NA
Metro residents	38%	380	380	45%
Greater MN residents	46%	460	460	55%
Totals	100%	1,000	840	100%
Source: 2007 DNR data				

The second step was to calculate the share of visits by Metro Area residents and Greater MN residents to the Metro Regional Parks & Trails System. This is shown in Table 2. After excluding visitors from Out-of-State, and only counting visits by residents of Minnesota, 96.9% of those visits are by persons who live in the Metro Area and 3.1% are by persons who live in Greater Minnesota.

Table 2: Residence of Metro Regional Park System Visitors

	% of Metro Regional Parks & Trails System Visitors sorted by residence	Number of visitors per 1,000	Number of visits by MN residents	% of Visits to Metro Regional Parks & Trails System between Metro and Greater MN Residents
Out of State tourists	3.8%	38	NA	NA
Metro residents	93.2%	932	932	96.9%
Greater MN residents	3.0%	30	30	3.1%
Totals	100%	1,000	962	100%
Source: Metropolitan Council Regional Parks and Trails Survey 2008				

The third step was to calculate the share of visits by Metro Area residents and Greater MN residents to Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails. But at this time, no comparable data on visitor origin is available. This analysis assumes that 96.9% of visits to Greater MN regional parks and trails are by Greater Minnesota residents and 3.1% of visits are by Metro Area residents. The premise for this assumption is that most visitors live within

a 20 to 30 mile radius of these regional parks and trails. They do attract out of State visitors, but unlike State Parks, they are marketed and serve a regional audience.

The fourth step was to calculate the benefits of allocating Parks and Trails Legacy appropriations between the Metro Regional Parks & Trails System, the DNR State Parks & Trails System and Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails. This was done by multiplying the dollars allocated to each system with the share of visitors that system serves.

Here is an example of the calculation:

\$ 40 allocated to Metro Regional Parks & Trails
X 96.9% Percent Metro visitors to Metro Regional Parks & Trails
 \$ 38.76 Metro Area Benefit of Parks & Trails Legacy Allocation

The results of all calculations are shown in Table 3 below. The results are that \$57.38 of every \$100 of Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations would benefit Metro Area residents and \$42.62 would benefit Greater MN residents based on the 40% Metro Parks/40% DNR Parks/20% Greater MN Parks allocation.

Table 3: Benefit Distribution of Parks & Trails Legacy Allocation Recommended by Funding Work Group (40 % Metro Parks /40 % DNR Parks /20% Greater MN Parks)					
	Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Recommendation per \$100	Percent of Metro visitors to:	Percent of Greater MN Visitors to:	Metro Area Benefit of Parks & Trails Legacy Allocation	Greater MN Benefit of Parks & Trails Legacy Allocation
Metro Reg. Parks & Trails	\$ 40	96.9%	3.1%	\$ 38.76	\$ 1.24
DNR State Parks & Trails	\$ 40	45%	55%	\$ 18.00	\$ 22.00
Greater MN Reg. Parks & Trails (1)	\$ 20	3.1%	96.9%	\$ 0.62	\$ 19.38
Totals	\$ 100			\$ 57.38	\$ 42.62

(1) The percent of visitors by residence to Greater MN Regional Parks is assumed to be the opposite of visitors by residence to Metro Regional Parks. The proximity of parks within a 20 to 30 minute driving radius is a primary--but not sole predictor of who uses that park or trail.

The final step in the analysis is comparing this amount of benefits to the population share of Metro Area and Greater Minnesota. This is shown in Table 4. The result is that the benefits to Metro Area residents and Greater MN residents from the 40/40/20 allocation of Parks and Trails Legacy appropriations is relatively equal to the population shares of the Metro Area and Greater Minnesota. Slightly more benefits accrue to Metro Area residents relative to their population share.

Table 4: Comparison of Metro Area and Greater MN Population with Parks & Trails Legacy Benefits		
Total MN Pop.	Metro Area Pop.	Greater MN Pop.
5,303,925	2,849,567	2,454,358
Percent of MN Pop. 2010	53.7%	46.3%
Parks & Trails Legacy Benefits	\$ 57.38	\$ 42.62