



Information

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Recommendation

Arne Stefferud, Manager
Regional Parks & Natural Resources Unit

Emily Franklin, Environmental Initiative

Community Development Committee
December 17, 2012





20th Anniversary

Powerful Partnerships, Effective Solutions

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Project

Metropolitan Council Community Development Committee

Emily Franklin

December 17, 2012

Overview

- Who We Are
- Process & Challenges
- Parks and Trails Legacy
Funding Recommendation



Who We Are

- 20-year-old nonprofit organization
- Mission: Build partnerships to develop collaborative solutions to Minnesota's environmental problems.
- Environmental solutions through three areas of work:
 - Events
 - Dialogue
 - Action



Legislative Charge

The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources was mandated to convene and facilitate a nine-member working group to develop consensus recommendations for the allocation of the parks and trails fund for the FY 2014-15 Biennial Budget. *Laws of Minnesota, 2011 First special Session, Chapter 6, Article 3, Section 7(f).*

(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.

Meetings & Groups

- Environmental Initiative selected by DNR to manage and facilitate the process
- Six meetings between April and October 2012
- 9 member Work Group
 - 3 members from each provider organization
- Core Team
 - Purpose is for feedback, input & strategic insight to plan Work Group meetings. Advisory only.

Work Group Members

- Bob Bierscheid, *Retired, Former Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Saint Paul*
- John Gunyou, *Retired, Former City of Minnetonka, City Manager; District 4 Commissioner-Elect, Three Rivers Park District*
- Chuck Kartak, *Retired, Former Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation Deputy Director*
- Joe Kurcinka, *Retired, Former Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Central Region Director*
- Greg Mack, *Director of Ramsey County Parks and Recreation*
- Erika Rivers, *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Assistant Commissioner*
- Tom Ryan, *Olmsted County Parks Superintendent*
- Pat Sawatzke, *Wright County Board of Commissioners*
- Tom Schmitz, *City of New Ulm, Parks and Recreation Director*

Challenges

- Early agreement to develop an allocation formula based on independent data
- Brainstormed list of possible data sets to support a recommendation
- Explored many models
- Current, consistent and comparable data from each system was not available
- Interim strategy developed

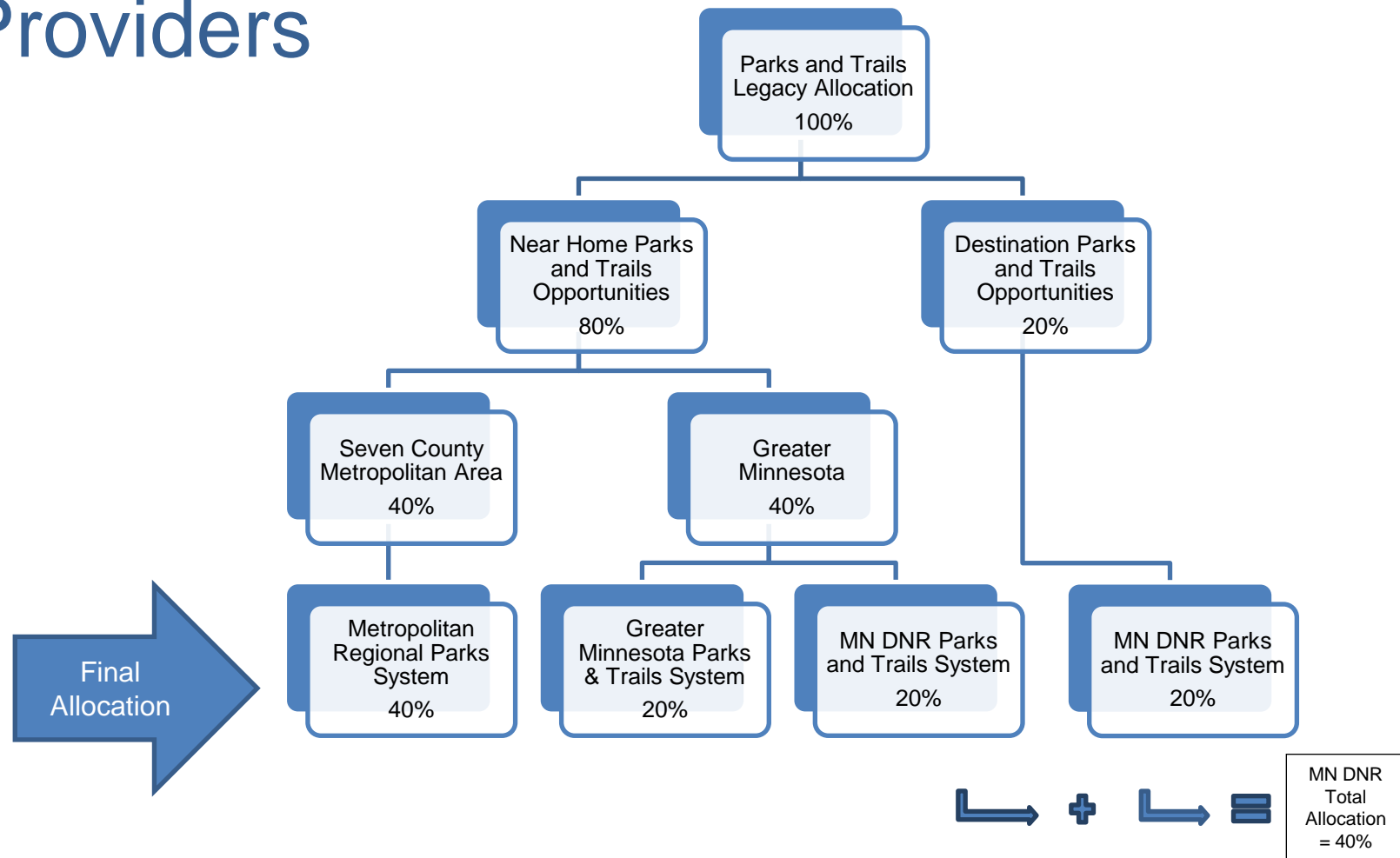


Recommendation Outline



- Establish a Fund to Coordinate Among Partners
 - Provide Resources for Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Capacity Building Activities
- Percentage Allocations for Minnesota Parks and Trails of State and Regional Significance
- Increase Flexibility of Parks and Trails Legacy Funding to Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails
- Term of Recommendation
- Criteria and Process to Consider for Future Allocations

Allocation for Park and Trail Providers



Project Outcomes

- Consensus recommendation for 6 years using the best information available
 - Commitment to obtain relevant data for future allocation
- Provides resources for ongoing collaboration
- Recognized need for more flexibility and capacity building in Greater Minnesota
- Identified the complementary roles of all three park and trail provider systems
 - Opportunities to learn from one another; systems are more alike than different



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Project Website:

www.environmental-initiative.org/projects/parks-and-trails-legacy-funding-project





Retrospective Analysis of Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Recommendation

Arne Stefferud, Manager
Regional Parks & Natural Resources Unit

Community Development Committee,
December 17, 2012



Premise for Retrospective Analysis

- **Will Metro Area and Greater MN residents receive relatively equal benefits from Parks and Trails Legacy spending as recommended by the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group?**
- **Who visits State and Regional Parks and Trails?**

Who Visits State Parks?

	% Visitors Sorted by Residence	Number of visitors per 1,000	Number of visits by MN residents	% of MN resident visits 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	1,000

Who Visits Metro Regional Parks & Trails?

	% Visitors Sorted by Residence	Number of visitors per 1,000	Number of visits by MN residents	% of MN resident visits between Metro and Greater MN
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%

Assumed Visitor Origin for Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails

	% Visitors Sorted by Residence	Number of visitors per 1,000	Number of visits by MN residents	% of MN resident visits between Metro and Greater MN
Out of State tourists	3.8%	38	NA	NA
Metro residents	3.0%	30	30	3.1%
Greater MN residents	93.2%	932	932	96.9%
Totals	100%	1,000	962	100%

Benefit Distribution Parks & Trails Legacy Allocation (40% Metro Parks / 40% DNR Parks / 20% Greater MN Parks)

	Parks & Trails Allocation per \$100	Percent Metro Visitors to:	Percent Greater MN Visitors to:	Metro Area Benefit	Greater MN Benefit
Metro Reg. Parks	\$ 40	96.9%	3.1%	\$38.76	\$1.24
DNR State Parks	\$ 40	45%	55%	\$18.00	\$22.00
Greater MN Reg. Parks	\$ 20	3.1%	96.9%	\$0.62	\$19.38
Totals	\$100			\$57.38	\$42.62

Compare Metro and Greater MN Population with Parks & Trails Legacy Benefits

Total MN Population	Metro Area Population	Greater MN Population
5,303,925	2,849,567	2,454,358
Percent of MN Population 2010	53.7%	46.3%
Parks & Trails Legacy Benefits	\$57.38	\$42.62

Conclusion from Retrospective Analysis

- **Metro Area and Greater MN residents receive relatively equal benefits from Parks and Trails Legacy spending as recommended by the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group**