

		Executive Summary
C	Community Development Committee	Item: 2006-368
	Meeting date: December 18, 2006 Metropolitan Council meeting date: January 17, 2007	
ADVISORY INFORMATION		
	Date:	November 21, 2006
	Subject:	Request for reimbursement consideration in future regional parks CIP for design/engineering of Mississippi River Regional Trail segment in Dakota County and related amendment to 2006-07 Regional Parks CIP
	District(s), Member(s):	District 16 – Brian McDaniel
	Policy/Legal Reference:	Strategy 2(f) of the <i>2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan</i>
	Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst– Parks (651-602-1360)
	Division/Department:	Community Development Division/ Regional Systems Planning and Growth Strategy

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council approve the request to consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$102,000 for design/engineering of the Mississippi River Regional Trail from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the City of Hastings. \$80,000 of the reimbursement is proposed to be funded by amending the 2006-07 CIP project description for project 06D-23 as follows:

“Partial reimbursement for design and engineering of regional trail from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the west Hastings city limit along CSAH 42, a distance of approximately 3.4 miles.”

The remaining \$22,000 would be considered for reimbursement in a future regional parks capital improvement program. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Issue

Should the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$102,000 for design/engineering of the Mississippi River Regional Trail from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the City of Hastings in a future regional parks capital improvement program?

Overview and Funding

Dakota County has submitted a request that the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing the County up to \$102,000 in a future regional parks capital improvement program for design/engineering of the Mississippi River Regional Trail segment from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the City of Hastings under the terms of Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

Dakota County has a \$696,000 federal TEA-21 grant programmed for 2008 to partially finance the trail’s construction. In order to meet project deadlines for the federal grant, the County must begin design/engineering work on the trail prior to receiving funds for that work from the Council’s regional parks CIP. Therefore the County has asked the Metropolitan Council to:

1. Change the project description for 06D-23 of \$80,000 for this project in the 2006-07 regional parks CIP to a reimbursement.
2. Consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$22,000 for this project in a future regional park CIP because the County now expects the total cost to be \$102,000--\$22,000 more than was originally estimated when the 2006-07 regional parks CIP was prepared.

This project is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f) for the following reasons:

1. The timing and scale of this project is consistent with the development master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council in 1999, and the 2006-07 regional parks CIP included \$80,000 for the project. That project was not funded in 2006 as it was too low in priority in the 2006-07 CIP compared to the amount of funds appropriated for the CIP.
2. Enough information has been submitted in this request regarding what would be financed with a Council grant to meet the requirements of Strategy 2(f).
3. The County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval of the project prior to moving forward and spending their own funds on it. The County must proceed with design/engineering on this project in order to ensure it will retain access to a \$696,000 federal TEA-21 grant for constructing the trail in 2008.

Approval of this project for an estimated \$102,000 in Metropolitan Council funds at this time does not commit the Council to finance this project ahead of other projects in the regional parks CIP. A portion of this project (\$80,000) has already been considered and ranked by park unit with other projects when preparing the 2006-07 regional parks CIP. The timing of when the County is reimbursed for the remaining \$22,000 is dependent on when this project is funded in a future regional park capital improvement program. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission considered this request at its meeting on November 14. The Commission had no questions about it, and unanimously approved the recommendation.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone (651) 602-1000 TDD (651) 291-0904

DATE: November 2, 2006

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst- Parks (651) 602-1360

SUBJECT: (2006-368) Request for reimbursement consideration in future regional parks CIP for design/engineering of Mississippi River Regional Trail segment in Dakota County and related amendment to 2006-07 Regional Parks CIP

INTRODUCTION

Dakota County has submitted a request that the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing the County up to \$102,000 in a future regional parks capital improvement program for design/engineering of the Mississippi River Regional Trail segment from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the City of Hastings under the terms of Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. (See **Attachment 1**, a letter from Steve Sullivan).

This memorandum contains a review of the request for reimbursement authorization under applicable terms in Strategy 2(f) and recommends approval of the reimbursement request. It also recommends a technical amendment to the 2006-07 regional parks capital improvement program that changes the \$80,000 currently proposed for this project in the CIP to a reimbursement project. The remaining \$22,000 would have to be considered for reimbursement in a future regional park CIP.

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW

Minnesota Statute Section 473.315 authorizes the “Metropolitan Council with the advice of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to make grants from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes to any municipality, park district or county located wholly or partially within the metropolitan area to cover the cost, or any portion of the cost, of acquiring or developing regional recreation open space in accordance with the [*Regional Recreation Open Space*] *Policy Plan*”.

BACKGROUND

The Metropolitan Council approved the development master plan for the Mississippi River Regional Trail in 1999. Dakota County requested \$80,000 in the 2006-07 regional parks CIP to finance design/engineering work for a segment of the trail from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the City of Hastings. The project (06D-23) was not funded as part of the 2006 State bonding appropriation for the 2006-07 regional parks CIP because it was too low in the prioritized list of projects.

REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST ANALYSIS

Dakota County has a \$696,000 federal TEA-21 grant programmed for 2008 to partially finance the trail’s construction. In order to meet project deadlines for the federal grant, the County must begin design/engineering work on the trail prior to receiving funds for that work from the Council’s regional parks CIP. Therefore the County has asked the Metropolitan Council to:

1. Change the project description for 06D-23 of \$80,000 for this project in the 2006-07 regional parks CIP to a reimbursement.

2. Consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$22,000 for this project in a future regional park CIP because the County now expects the total cost to be \$102,000--\$22,000 more than was originally estimated when the 2006-07 regional parks CIP was prepared.

Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* states:

Strategy 2(f): Reimbursement

Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan, that all information required for a development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project and that the Council approves the project.

This project is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f) for the following reasons:

1. The timing and scale of this project is consistent with the development master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council in 1999, and the 2006-07 regional parks CIP included \$80,000 for the project. That project was not funded in 2006 as it was too low in priority in the 2006-07 CIP compared to the amount of funds appropriated for the CIP.
2. Enough information has been submitted in this request regarding what would be financed with a Council grant to meet the requirements of Strategy 2(f).
3. The County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval of the project prior to moving forward and spending their own funds on it. The County must proceed with design/engineering on this project in order to ensure it will retain access to a \$696,000 federal TEA-21 grant for constructing the trail in 2008.

Approval of this project for an estimated \$102,000 in Metropolitan Council funds at this time does not commit the Council to finance this project ahead of other projects in the regional parks CIP. A portion of this project (\$80,000) has already been considered and ranked by park unit with other projects when preparing the 2006-07 regional parks CIP. The timing of when the County is reimbursed for the remaining \$22,000 is dependent on when this project is funded in a future regional park capital improvement program. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Concurrently with approving the consideration to reimburse the County for this project, the 2006-07 CIP project description for project 06D-23 (the \$80,000 proposed grant for the project) should also be amended as follows:

“Partial reimbursement for design and engineering of regional trail from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the west Hastings city limit along CSAH 42, a distance of approximately 3.4 miles.”

CONCLUSION

The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* requires that requests for CIP reimbursement are consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). This review concludes that the reimbursement request for design/engineering of the Mississippi River Regional Trail from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the City of Hastings is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. A portion of this project (\$80,000) has already been considered and ranked by park unit with other projects when preparing the 2006-07 regional parks CIP. The timing of when the County is reimbursed for the remaining \$22,000 is dependent on when this project is funded in a capital improvement program. However, the Council

does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council approve the request to consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$102,000 for design/engineering of the Mississippi River Regional Trail from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the City of Hastings. \$80,000 of the reimbursement is proposed to be funded by amending the 2006-07 CIP project description for project 06D-23 as follows:

“Partial reimbursement for design and engineering of regional trail from Spring Lake Park Reserve to the west Hastings city limit along CSAH 42, a distance of approximately 3.4 miles.”

The remaining \$22,000 would be considered for reimbursement in a future regional parks capital improvement program. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

V:\LIBRARY\PARKS\2006\2006-368 CDC memo Miss River RT designengineering reimbursement request.doc

Attachment 1: Electronic version. Original on file at Metropolitan Council office



October 27, 2006

Parks Administration
Steve Sullivan, RLA
Parks Director

Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

952.891.7000
Fax 952.891.7097
www.co.dakota.mn.us

Arne Stefferud
Planning Analyst - Parks
Metropolitan Council
Mears Park Centre 230 East Fifth Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Request for Eligibility for Future Reimbursements

Dear Arne,

Dakota County requests Metropolitan Council consideration and approval for two items regarding the design and final engineering of the Spring Lake Park Reserve to City of Hastings segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail (MRRT):

1. Our Capital Improvement Program submittal to the Metropolitan Council currently includes a 2006/2007 Part #2 grant request of \$80,000 for the design and final engineering of this segment, which is scheduled for construction in 2008. However, due to considerable acquisition expected to be required to accommodate the project, we have determined that design must begin now to meet project deadlines and remain eligible for \$696,000 of TEA21 construction funds. This necessitates the expenditure of county funds in advance of receiving the requested Metropolitan Council grant. Therefore, we ask that this grant request be converted to a reimbursement.
2. Design and engineering services are expected to cost \$22,000 above the grant request of \$80,000. Therefore we request eligibility for future reimbursement for the use of these county funds.

Thank you for your consideration of these items and please contact me at 952.891.7088 if you need additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sullivan", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Sullivan
Parks Director

c: Bruce Blair, Manager, Parks Development and Maintenance
Stacy Reilly, Financial Analyst
Jan Larson, Accounting Technician