

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

DATE: June 26, 2007

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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

SUBJECT: (2007-223) Request for North Mississippi Regional Park development grant, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

INTRODUCTION:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has requested a \$348,825 grant to supplement \$82,000 in grant SG-2006-149 for trail and parking improvements from 49th Ave. N. to 51st Ave. N. to implement a part of the North Mississippi Regional Park master plan. (See **Attachment 1**, June 25, 2007 letter from Andrew Lesch, Mpls. Park & Rec. Board) A map of the park is on **Attachment 2**.

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW:

Laws of Minnesota 1985, First Special Session, Chap. 15, Sec. 5, Subd. 2 (b), Laws of Minnesota 1987 Chapter 384, Article 3, Sec. 45 and Laws of Minnesota 1998, Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 3, Sec. 12 direct the Metropolitan Council to establish a separate account of interest it earns on park bonds and to grant funds from that account for the acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park.

BACKGROUND and ANALYSIS:

In accordance with the legislation cited above, the Metropolitan Council has authorized 16 grants totaling \$12,898,237 to acquire and develop North Mississippi Regional Park. Of this amount \$11,698,237 is interest earnings on Council park bonds. Details on the grants awarded for the park are shown in **Attachment 3**.

In 1998 the Legislature expanded the boundary of North Mississippi Regional Park to include a trail segment along 49th Avenue. The trail portion extends approximately one-mile west of the main park to Humboldt Avenue and Shingle Creek. In 2003 the Metropolitan Council approved an amended master plan for North Mississippi Regional Park to include trail development along 49th Avenue consistent with the legislation.

In 2002, the MPRB proposed additional future development projects for North Mississippi Regional Park that were estimated to cost \$3,260,000 at that time. Details of the projects are shown on **Attachment 4**. Discussions with legislators to cap the open ended appropriation for this park were conducted. Since the actual costs for the additional improvements would be dependent on future inflationary factors there was no support for proposing a cap in the amount that could be granted for the park.

The Council currently has \$348,825 in this special account that is unobligated and could be provided for a new grant. The MPRB has requested that it be granted for the following purposes:

Replace the remaining former Lyndale Avenue North pavement and curbing, construct new parking, picnic facilities, lighting, utilities, and landscaping from 49th Avenue North to 51st Avenue North. In

addition, as funds permit extend a separated bike path where it ends in the picnic shelter area and add open air picnic shelters.

The uses proposed for the \$348,825 grant are consistent with the park's master plan.

The Metropolitan Council needs to amend its 2007 Authorized Capital Program to include the \$348,825 grant for North Mississippi Regional Park so that the grant can be authorized for expenditure.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. State law requires the Metropolitan Council to establish a separate account of interest it earns on park bonds and to grant funds from that account for the acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park. There is currently \$348,825 unobligated in this account for a new grant.
2. The MPRB has requested a grant of \$348,825 from the Metropolitan Council for trail and parking improvements from 49th Ave. N. to 51st Ave. N. and if funds permit extend a separated bike path where it ends in the picnic shelter area and add open air picnic shelters consistent with the park's master plan.
3. The Metropolitan Council needs to amend its 2007 Authorized Capital Program to include the \$348,825 grant for North Mississippi Regional Park so that the grant is authorized for expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Metropolitan Council amend its 2007 Authorized Capital Program by adding a grant of \$348,825 to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for North Mississippi Regional Park for the following purposes:

Replace the remaining former Lyndale Avenue North pavement and curbing, construct new parking, picnic facilities, lighting, utilities, and landscaping from 49th Avenue North to 51st Avenue North. In addition, as funds permit extend a separated bike path where it ends in the picnic shelter area and add open air picnic shelters.

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



**Minneapolis
Park and Recreation
Board**

Administrative Offices
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June 25,2007

Mr. Arne Stefferud
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: North Mississippi Park 49th Ave. Trails and Trails and Parking 51st Ave. N. to 53rd Ave. N

Dear Arne:

Per our recent conversations and e-mails I understand \$348,825 in the North Mississippi Fund (Council Interest Earnings) is now available for a new grant. I request, therefore, a new grant in the amount of \$348,825 for use in North Mississippi Park.

The grant funds are to be used as follows:

The new funds would be added to Grant SG-2006-149 which dedicated \$82,000 plus the current \$348,825 for a total of \$430,825 to be used for trail and parking improvements from 49th Ave. N. to 51st Avenue North. The project would replace remaining former Lyndale Ave. North pavements and curbing, constructing new parking, picnic facilities, lighting, utilities, landscaping. Additionally, as funds permit, extend a separated bike path where it ends in the picnic shelter area, add open air picnic shelters. These improvements are consistent with the Master Plan suggested development Action items. Action 6 states "Construct a hike bike trail from 53rd Ave to the Camden Bridge". Action 7. states "Develop a park entrance at 49th Ave. and a recreational node between the 47th Avenue and 51st Avenue-areas" (parking, restrooms, a picnic area shelter, open play area, and shoreline fishing).

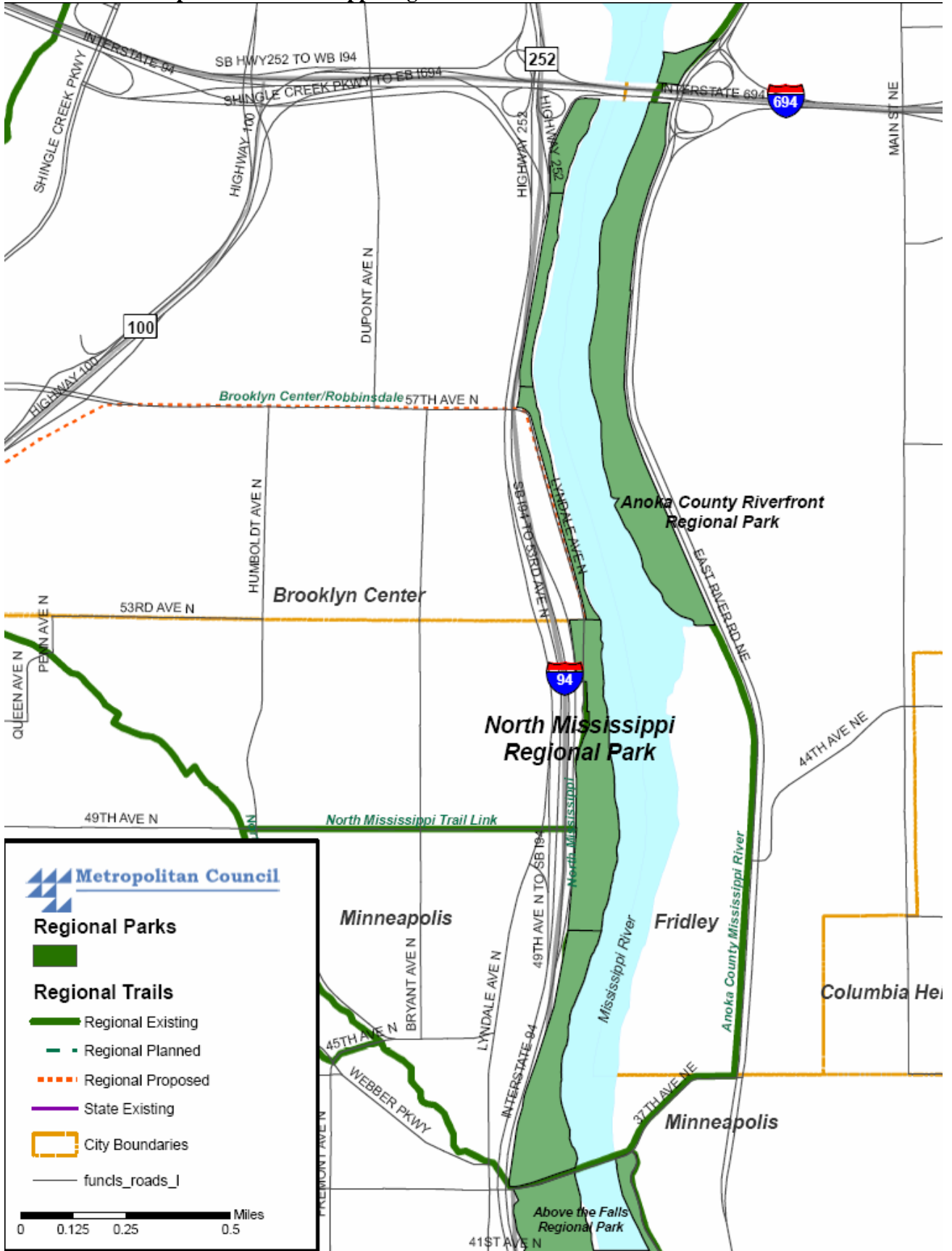
Access for park users driving from the North at 53rd Avenue has been difficult. Parking along the old street from 53rd Ave. N. to about 52nd Ave N where the existing parking area was implemented in an earlier phase with the playground, shelter, toilets parking improvements.

Should you need additional grant information please feel free to contact me at 612-230-6438.

Sincerely,

Andy Lesch
RLA , Park & Recreation Planner

Attachment 2: Map of North Mississippi Regional Park



Attachment 3: List of Grants awarded to North Mississippi Regional Park as of June 2007 and proposed for July 2007

Grant No.	Grant Amount	Grant Revenue Source			Grant Description
		State bonds & LCMR funds	Metro. Council grant interest earnings	Metro. Council bonds	
SG-87-143	\$ 4,840,755	\$ 500,000	\$ 4,340,755		Land acquisition on west bank of river in Minneapolis
AG-88-32	\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000		Land acquisition on east bank of river north of Camden Bridge
AG-88-2	\$ 700,000		\$ 700,000		Land acquisition on west bank of river in Brooklyn Center
AG-92-7	\$ 125,000		\$ 125,000		Develop trail from northern edge of park on east bank of river south to intersection of East River Road and 37th Ave. E. in Fridley
AG-93-13	\$ 317,500		\$ 317,500		To acquire land in Brooklyn Center portion of the park
SG-94-36	\$ 138,334		\$ 138,334		Match to \$160,000 ISTE A grant for trail development from intersection of East River Road and 37th Ave. E. south to the Camden bridge and south of the bridge to link with existing MPRB trails along St. Anthony Parkway.
AG-94-1	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000		Repair existing access road, connect existing trails with boat launch area, develop picnic area and develop 2,000 feet of hike/bike paths north of Camden bridge.
SG-94-66	\$ 553,976		\$ 553,976		Trail development between 53rd Ave. and Camden bridge, park entrance at 49th Ave., a recreational node between 47th Ave. and 51st Ave., upgrade and improve boat launch south of Camden bridge.
SG-94-77	\$ 180,181		\$ 180,181		Acquire final seven parcels in Brooklyn Center
SG-99-14	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000		Cover extra costs required by MN DOT for spending a \$300,000 State of MN appropriation and \$291,000 ISTE A grant for trail development in Brooklyn Center portion of park.
SG-97-262	\$ 2,750,000		\$ 2,750,000		Creative play/totlot, wading pool, trails, picnic shelter, restrooms, park roads and parking area plus related utilities and landscaping between 47th Ave. and 51st Ave.

Attachment 3 continued: List of Grants awarded to North Mississippi Regional Park as of June 2007 and Proposed for July 2007

Grant No.	Grant Amount	Grant Revenue Source			Grant Description
		State bonds & LCMR funds	Metro. Council grant interest earnings	Metro. Council bonds	
SG-99-127	\$ 882,453		\$ 882,453		Partial financing for visitor interpretive/historic center
SG-02-147	\$ 1,228,038	\$ 342,000	\$ 886,038		Finance remainder of visitor interpretive/historic center
SG-03-090	\$ 528,000	\$ 358,000	\$ 170,000		Develop bike and pedestrian trail system between park entrance near Lyndale Avenue extending westerly to Humboldt Ave. along 49th Ave. North.
SG-05-21	\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		Partial reimbursement to Hennepin County for developing trails along 49 th Avenue North.
SG-2006-149	\$ 154,000		\$ 154,000		Complete reimbursement to Hennepin County for trails along 49 th Avenue (\$72,000) and begin parking and trail improvements between 49 th and 51 st Avenues (\$82,000)
Requested grant submitted June 2007	\$ 348,825		\$ 348,825		Continue parking and trail improvements between 49 th and 51 st Avenues, and if funds permit extend separated bike path that currently ends in the picnic shelter area and add open air picnic shelters
Totals as of June 2007	\$ 12,898,237	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 11,698,237	\$ 0	
Updated total including June 2007 request	\$ 13,247,062	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 12,047,062	\$ 0	

**Attachment 4: Details of North Mississippi Regional Park projects yet to be completed as of June 2007
(2002 estimate data)**

Grant No.	Grant Amount	Grant Revenue Source			Grant Description
		State bonds & LCMR funds	Metro. Council grant interest earnings	Metro. Council bonds	
Proposed	\$ 875,000		\$ 875,000		Open air picnic shelter, toilet building, drinking fountains, lighting, signage, site furnishings, landscaping and modify parking as needed near Camden boat launch at southern border of the park.
Proposed	\$ 625,000 (Note: \$82,000 granted in 2006 and \$348,825 requested in 2007 would finance part of this project)		\$ 625,000 (Note: \$82,000 granted in 2006 and \$348,825 requested in 2007 would finance part of this project)		Remove old streets, curbs, invasive plants, regrading and relocation of soil/rubble stock piles, plus develop wet pot hole and dry native prairie (3 acres), boardwalk observation decks for outdoor nature interpretation, plus bike paths, walk paths, lighting and open play turf area (1.5 acres) for picnics between 51st and 49th Ave. North (adjacent to visitor interpretive/historic center)
Proposed	\$ 960,000		\$ 960,000		Develop a "prairie picnic shelter" with a live plant roof, fireplace and roll-up doors for year-round recreation and outdoor programming use. Add lighting and parking and bike/ped paths around Interpretive Center. All work located between 49th and 45th Avenues North.
Proposed	\$ 800,000		\$ 800,000		Develop new parking area from old North Mississippi Drive, bike path, sidewalks, shade structure for wading pool, heating and insulation, ventilation, mechanical systems for maintenance storage building and toilet/concessions building located between 53rd and 51st Avenues North.
Total of proposed funding	\$ 3,260,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 3,260,000	\$ -	
Cumulative Total adjusted to take into account 2006 grant and 2007 request	\$ 16,076,237	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 14,876,237	\$ -	