

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
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DATE: December 22, 2008

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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

SUBJECT: (2009-4) Request for reimbursement consideration of \$300,000 for development at North Mississippi Regional Park, Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board

INTRODUCTION

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has requested reimbursement consideration of \$300,000 it expects to spend in the Spring of 2009 to add a dock, restroom, picnic shelter, pavement and site improvements at the Camden Boat Launch in North Mississippi Regional Park. (See **Attachment 1**, letter from Andrew Lesch, Mpls. Park & Rec. Board). A map of the park is on **Attachment 2**.

This memorandum contains a review of the request for reimbursement consideration under applicable terms in Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW

Laws of Minnesota 1985, First Special Session, Chap. 15, Sec. 5, Subd. 2 (b), plus 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:

From 1985 to the present, the Metropolitan Council has authorized 18 grants totaling \$13,901,360 to acquire and develop North Mississippi Regional Park in accordance with the legislation cited above. Of this amount \$12,701,360 is interest earnings on bonds issued by the Council for regional park capital improvements. 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 and what has been funded for some of those 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.

REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST ANALYSIS

The MPRB expects to spend \$300,000 beyond what has been granted to-date in the Spring of 2009 to add a dock, restroom, picnic shelter, pavement and site improvements at the Camden Boat Launch. At this time the Metropolitan Council does not have \$300,000 of interest earnings on its park bonds to provide a grant now for this project. Therefore, if the MPRB has to spend its own funds on this project, the Council could consider reimbursing the MPRB with a grant when \$300,000 of interest earnings has been accumulated.

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:

- a. The timing, scale and cost of the project are consistent with the development master plan for North Mississippi Regional Park approved by the Metropolitan Council and cited in the letter from the MPRB in **Attachment 1**.
- b. 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). In this case, that information is contained in **Attachment 1**.
- c. The MPRB is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for this project prior to undertaking it.

CONCLUSIONS

1. State law requires the Metropolitan Council to spend the interest it earns on park capital improvement bonds for the acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park.
2. The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* requires that requests for reimbursement consideration are consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). This review concludes that the reimbursement consideration request of \$300,000 to add a dock, restroom, picnic shelter, pavement and site improvements at the Camden Boat Launch in North Mississippi Regional Park is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). The timing of when the MPRB is reimbursed for the \$300,000 is dependent on when that amount of interest is earned on the Council's park bonds.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing \$300,000 to the Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board to add a dock, restroom, picnic shelter, pavement and site improvements at the Camden Boat Launch in North Mississippi Regional Park when that amount of interest has been earned on the Council's park bonds in accordance with State law.

Attachment 1: Letter from Andrew Lesch, Minneapolis Park & Rec. Bd.



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

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November 24, 2008

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- Reimbursement Grant Request**

Dear Arne:

We began construction on North Mississippi Park Trails and Parking in October. We encountered a large soil correction issue when removing former Lyndale Avenue. We also have an opportunity to provide an innovative storm water treatment system using a reinforced turf system for overflow parking in the North Mississippi Fund.

Overall the project bids came in better than expected. With that said we would like to obtain a reimbursement agreement in the amount of \$300,000 against future (Council Interest Earnings) funds for use in North Mississippi Park. The actual funds wouldn't be needed until spring of 2009 when I expect a request will be made for a new grant in the amount of Council Interest Earnings from the Park Fund.

The grant funds are to be used as follows:

The new funds would be added to Grant SG-2006-149 which dedicated \$82,000, Sg-2007-098 for \$348,825, Sg-2008-049 for \$654,298 plus the present request of \$300,000 for a total of \$1,385,123 to be used for trail and parking improvements from 49th Ave. N. to 51st Avenue North.

Any remaining eligible funds and our next request in the Spring of 2009 will be used for improvements to the Camden Boat Launch area for dock, restroom, picnic shelter, pavement and site improvements.

The current project is replacing the remaining former Lyndale Ave. North pavements and curbing, constructing new parking, picnic facilities, lighting, utilities, landscaping. A separated bike path which ends in the picnic shelter area is being extended, and 3 open air picnic shelters are under construction.

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 new culde-sac 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.

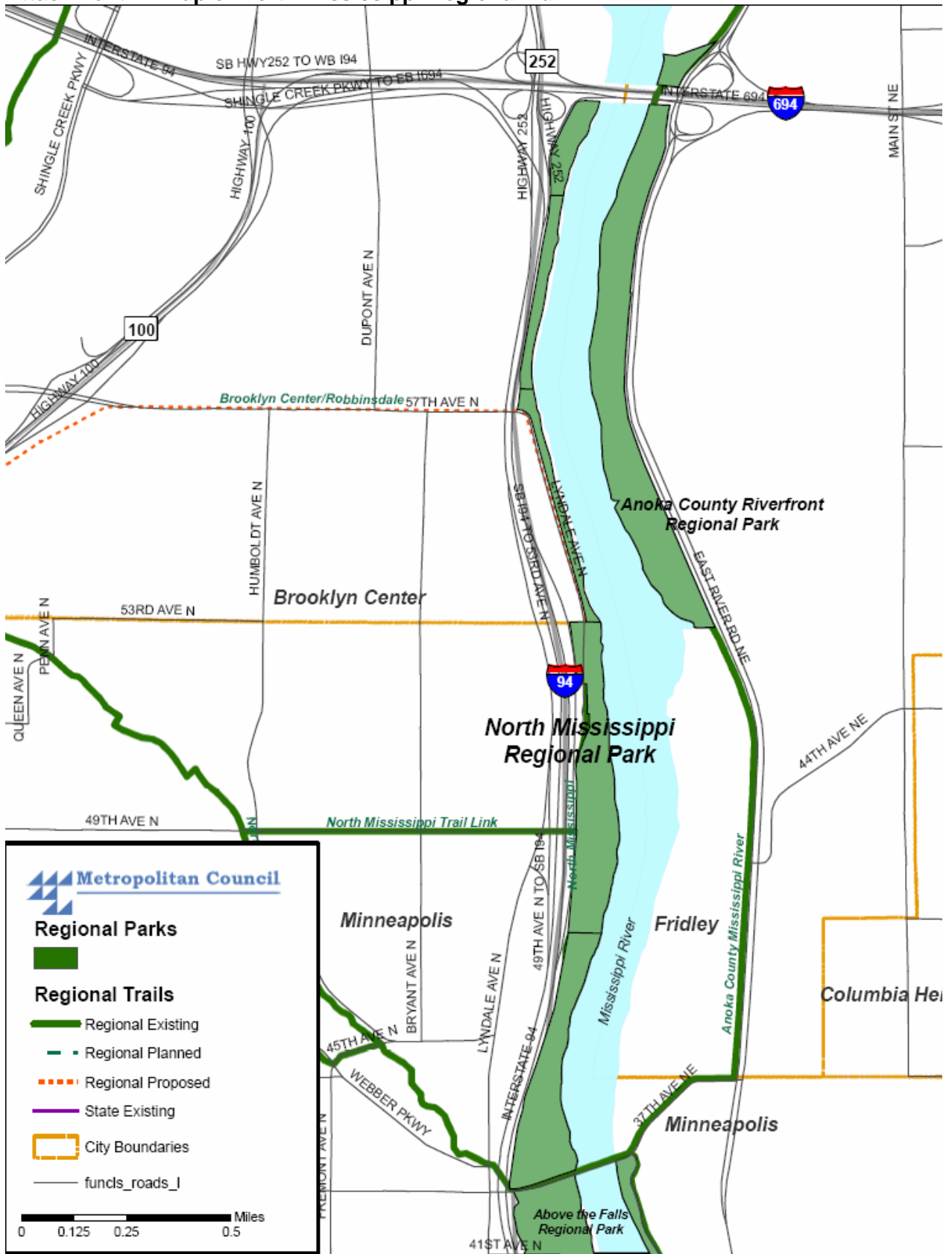
Sincerely,



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 December 2008

| Grant No. | Grant Amount | Grant Source | | Grant Description |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | State bonds & LCMR funds | Metro. Council grant interest earnings | |
| 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. |

| Grant No. | Grant Amount | Grant Source | | Grant Description |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | State bonds & LCMR funds | Metro. Council grant interest earnings | |
| 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) |
| SG-2007-98 | \$ 348,825 | | \$ 348,825 | Continue parking and trail improvements between 49 th and 51 st Avenues, and extend separated bike path that currently ends in the picnic shelter area and add open air picnic shelters. |
| SG-2008-049 | \$ 654,298 | \$ 0 | \$ 654,298 | Continue project described in grant SG-2007-98 above, plus if funds permit construct restroom and picnic facilities at the boat launch area located at 42 nd Ave. /Camden Bridge. (Approved May 28, 2008) |
| Total approved as of Dec. 2008 | \$ 13,901,360 | \$ 1,200,000 | \$ 12,701,360 | |

Attachment 4: Details of North Mississippi Regional Park projects yet to be completed as of December 2008 (2002 estimate data)

| Grant No. | Grant Amount | Grant Source | | Grant Description |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | State bonds & LCMR funds | Metro. Council grant interest earnings | |
| SG-2008-049 | \$ 875,000 (Note: \$460,123 from grant SG-2008-049 is financing a portion of this project) | | \$ 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. |
| SG-2006-149 SG-2007-99 SG-2008-049 | \$ 625,000 (Note: \$82,000 from grant SG-2006-, plus; \$348,825 from grant SG-2007 granted in 2007- and \$194,175 from grant SG-2008-049 finance this project) | | \$ 625,000 | 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 (not funded from grants shown above) | \$ 2,174,877 | \$ 1,200,000 | \$ 2,174,877 | |
| Total granted and proposed | \$ 16,076,237 | \$ 1,200,000 | \$ 14,876,237 | |