

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

**DATE:** May 7, 2009

**TO:** Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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

**SUBJECT:** (2009-170) Request for reimbursement consideration in future Regional Parks CIP for Mississippi River Regional Trail projects and signing projects, Dakota County

**Introduction**

Dakota County has asked the Metropolitan Council to consider reimbursing the County in future regional parks capital improvement programs up to \$2,325,665 for the following capital projects:

\$2,100,665 as a match to a \$3,395,909 of federal Transportation Enhancement grants to develop portions of the Mississippi River Regional Trail in Dakota County;

\$125,000 for signage in Dakota County's regional parks and trails

\$100,000 for landscaping, ecological improvements and signage at Schaar's Bluff Visitor Center in Spring Lake Park Reserve

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**

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**

In 1999, the Metropolitan Council approved the development master plan for the Mississippi River Regional Trail between the cities of South St. Paul and Hastings. On January 25, 2009 the Metropolitan Council approved a master plan amendment which changed the trail's alignment for the section between Hastings and Spring Lake Park Reserve (Referral No. 15553-5). The amended alignment parallels Co. Rd. 42 out of Hastings and then moves northwesterly along Co. Rd. 87 and 125<sup>th</sup> Street into Spring Lake Park Reserve. This segment is described as MRRT – East in the Dakota County letter (**Attachment 1**). The MRRT and specific segments proposed for reimbursement are shown in **Figure 1: Mississippi River Regional Trail—Dakota County**

**Figure 1: Mississippi River Regional Trail—Dakota County**



The Metropolitan Council approved an updated master plan for Spring Lake Park Reserve in April 2004. That plan included the development of the Schaar’s Bluff Gathering Center. The center has been built. The County’s

request is for CIP reimbursement consideration for landscaping, ecological improvements and other site amenities it intends to do later this year.

**Reimbursement request analysis**

The following table provides details for the County’s CIP reimbursement consideration request.

<b>Table 1: Dakota County's Metro Regional Parks CIP Reimbursement Consideration Request</b>				
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Federal Grant</b>	<b>Dakota County Funds proposed for reimbursement from Metro Regional Parks CIP</b>	<b>Project timeline</b>	<b>Other Conditions or Comments</b>
MRRT North acquisition and construction	\$ 837,264	\$ 550,000	Late 2009 or early 2010	Match to federal grant
MRRT Central acquisition and construction	\$ 772,800	\$ 150,000	Late 2009 or early 2010	Match to federal grant
MRRT Pine Bend final engineering, plus trail construction	\$ 943,312	\$ 675,665	2010 or 2011	Match to federal grant. \$625,000 of match has been requested from the constitutionally dedicated Parks and Trails Fund. The CIP reimbursement would be reduced \$625,000 if the Parks and Trails Fund appropriation is approved.
MRRT East acquisition and construction	\$ 842,533	\$ 325,000	Late 2009 or early 2010	Match to federal grant
MRRT general project budget assistance	Not applicable	\$ 400,000	Timelines shown above	Additional County funds to finance potential additional costs for MRRT projects described above
<b>SUBTOTAL FOR MRRT PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 3,395,909</b>	<b>\$ 2,100,665</b>		
System-wide signage	Not applicable	\$ 125,000	Late 2009	
Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center	Not applicable	\$ 100,000	Late 2009	Site landscaping, ecological improvements, signage and other site amenities
<b>TOTAL ALL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 3,395,909</b>	<b>\$ 2,325,665</b>		

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.

These projects are consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f) for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost of this project are consistent with the Council-approved development master plan under the following factors:
  - a. The timing, scale and cost of the projects are consistent with the development master plans for the following trail and park projects:

Mississippi River Regional Trail (MRRT) master plan initially approved in 1999 with an amendment to the plan regarding the MRRT East segment approved January 28, 2009

Spring Lake Park Reserve master plan update approved in April 2004 for the Schaar’s Bluff Gathering Center project.
  - 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. Dakota County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for these projects prior to undertaking them.

**Status of reimbursement consideration requests**

At this time there are about \$46 million of projects that the Metropolitan Council has approved for regional parks CIP reimbursement consideration. Such approval only allows the applicable regional park agency to seek reimbursement funding for such projects as part of that agency’s share of future regional parks capital improvement programs. Table 2 at the end of this memorandum lists all projects that may be considered for reimbursement in future regional parks capital improvement programs

**Conclusion**

The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* requires that requests for CIP reimbursement consideration are consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). This review concludes that Dakota County’s request for reimbursement consideration of up to \$2,325,665 for projects shown in Table 1 is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). The timing of when Dakota County is reimbursed for any portion of the \$2,325,665 is dependent on when funds are provided in future regional parks capital improvement programs. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that a reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

**Recommendation**

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County in future regional parks capital improvement programs up to \$2,325,665 for projects shown in Table 1. 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.

## Attachment 1: Letter from Steve Sullivan, Dakota County



### Physical Development Division

Dakota County  
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Environmental Mgmt. Department  
Farmland & Natural Areas Program  
Office of GIS  
Parks Department  
Office of Planning  
Surveyor's Office  
Transit Office  
Transportation Department  
Water Resources Office

April 23, 2009

Arne Stefferud  
Planning Analyst – Parks  
Metropolitan Council  
390 N. Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Arne,

Dakota County (DC) requests Metropolitan Council consideration for eligibility for future reimbursement of County funds to be used for engineering and construction of eligible capital improvement projects.

Since early 2008 DC has advanced the planning of various segments of the Mississippi River Regional Trail (MRRT) and is now getting closer to final engineering and acquisition of needed right-of-way and construction. Therefore, eligibility for reimbursement of County funds for the MRRT project is requested for:

#### MRRT North: South St. Paul into Inver Grove Heights (70<sup>th</sup> Street) Segment

- DC has received a federal transportation grant for acquisition and construction in the amount of \$837,264, and has budgeted \$550,000 of county funds as grant match and for other related costs. Construction is scheduled for late 2009 or early 2010.

#### MRRT Central: Cahill Avenue to Pine Bend SNA Segment

- DC has received a federal transportation grant for acquisition and construction in the amount of \$772,800, and has budgeted \$150,000 of county funds as grant match and for other related costs. Construction is scheduled for late 2009 or early 2010.

#### MRRT Pine Bend: Pine Bend SNA Vicinity to 117<sup>th</sup> Street Segment

- DC has budgeted \$125,000 of county funds for final engineering of this trail segment. Construction is scheduled for 2010 or 2011 assisted by a federal transportation grant of \$943,312, matched by \$550,665 of county funds. A portion of this local match has been requested via the Parks and Trails Fund

2009/2010 appropriation. If any of those funds are received the amount will be deducted from the Met Council reimbursement request.

**MRRT East: Spring Lake Park Reserve to Hastings Segment**

- DC has received a federal transportation grant for acquisition and construction in the amount of \$842,533, and has budgeted \$325,000 of county funds as grant match and for other related costs. Construction is scheduled for late 2009 or early 2010.

**MRRT General Project Budget Assistance**

- All segments of the MRRT are likely to exceed original budget amounts and so the county has budgeted an additional \$400,000 of county funds to use for engineering, acquisition, construction and closely related expenses, as required for any MRRT project.

A MRRT route map is enclosed that identifies the location of the above segments.

Furthermore, DC seeks consideration for eligibility for future reimbursement of County funds for these capital projects:

**System-wide Sign Elements Plan Implementation**

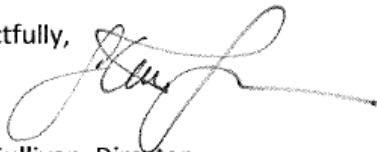
- Signs include primary and secondary entrance type monument signs, as well as directional, regulatory, interpretive and other signs. County funds of \$125,000 have been budgeted for implementation in late 2009.

**Spring Lake Park Reserve – Schaar’s Bluff Gathering Center**

- DC has budgeted \$100,000 for site landscaping and ecological improvement, signs, and other amenities. Funds should be expended later this year.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Steve Sullivan, Director  
Dakota County Parks and Open Space Department

Enclosure: MRRT Route Map

C: Michelle Beeman, Director, Environment and Natural Resources Section  
Bruce Blair, Manager, Park Facilities and Natural Resources Development  
Stacy Reilly, Financial Analyst

**Table 2: List of Outstanding Regional Park CIP Reimbursement Consideration Requests as of May 7, 2009**

<b>Park Agency Name</b>	<b>Outstanding amount <u>per project</u> for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration</b>	<b>Project Description</b> (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project)	<b>Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start</b>
Anoka County	\$ -		
City of Bloomington	\$ 44,157	Remove structure and site restoration at 6101 West 84th Street	2008
Carver County	\$ 100,000	Lake Waconia Regional Park-Demolition of Buildings	2007
Carver County	\$ 181,361	Lake Waconia Regional Park-Land Acquisition Land in Park Boundary and TH5 (43.94 acres) balance remaining after grant SG-2008-042	2007
Carver County	\$ 1,530,000	Lake Waconia Regional Park - Acquisition of lakeshore and ballroom	2008
Carver County	\$ 1,072,000	Match to \$1,976,000 federal grant to construct Dakota Rail Regional Trail	2008
	<b>\$ 2,883,361</b>	<b>Carver County Total</b>	
Dakota County	\$ 198,634	Lake Byllesby Regional Park road project remainder after \$225,000 reimbursement in 2008-09 CIP	1997
Dakota County	\$ 62,195	Lebanon Hills Regional Park campground expansion	2000
Dakota County	\$ 70,222	Lebanon Hills Regional Park acquisition (Schultz property)	2000
Dakota County	\$ 20,282	Miesville Ravine Park Reserve picnic shelter construction	2000
Dakota County	\$ 280,530	Miesville Ravine Park Reserve acquisition (Banks property)	2001
Dakota County	\$ 180,882	Spring Lake Park Reserve acquisition (Klink property)	2001
Dakota County	\$ 645,000	Lebanon Hills Regional Park visitor center construction	2002
Dakota County	\$ 220,793	Lebanon Hills Regional Park acquisition (Morotzke/Damann property)	2002
Dakota County	\$ 201,060	Lebanon Hills Regional Park acquisition (Medin property)	2003
Dakota County	\$ 362,400	North Urban Regional Trail Phase 1 construction	2003
Dakota County	\$ 226,639	Lebanon Hills Regional Park acquisition (Skogland property)	2005
Dakota County	\$ 419,146	Lebanon Hills Regional Park acquisition (Pryor property)	2005
Dakota County	\$ 158,269	Lake Byllesby Regional Park acquisition (Wackendorf property)	2005



<b>Park Agency Name</b>	<b>Outstanding amount per project for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration</b>	<b>Project Description (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project)</b>	<b>Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start</b>
Dakota County	\$ 741,000	Miesville Ravine Park Reserve acquisition (Nelson property)	2006
Dakota County	\$ 942,917	Lebanon Hills Regional Park stormwater management capital costs	2007
Dakota County	\$ 1,443,500	Spring Lake Park Reserve acquisition (Wicker property)	2008
Dakota County	\$ 2,155,000	Vermillion Highlands Regional Park acquisition (Butler property)	2008
	<b>\$ 8,328,469</b>	<b>Dakota County Total</b>	
Mpls. Park & Rec. Bd.	\$ 385,000	St. Anthony Parkway RT local match to TEA-21 trail development grant	2006
Mpls. Park & Rec. Bd.	\$ 300,000	North Mississippi RP development around Camden Boat Launch area	2009
	<b>\$ 685,000</b>	<b>MPRB Total</b>	
Ramsey County	\$ 34,913	Battle Creek Regional Park - Acquisition parcel No. 6	2008
City of St. Paul	\$ 195,000	Phalen Regional Park construction of a new children's play area in the picnic grounds.	2005
City of St. Paul	\$ 611,000	Como Regional Park construction of Hamm's Waterfall, including pools, walkways, landscpaing, mechanical and electrical systems.	2005
City of St. Paul	\$ 283,000	Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park: Connection of existing bike/ ped trail in Lilydale Park to Dakota county's Big Rivers Trail.	2005
	<b>\$ 1,089,000</b>	<b>City of St. Paul Total</b>	
Scott County	\$ 3,536,667	Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, ~400-acre Doyle Acquisition	2004
Scott County	\$ 3,526,192	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, ~60 acre Fun on the Farm Site acquisition	2007
	<b>\$ 7,062,859</b>	<b>Scott County Total</b>	
Three Rivers Park Dist.	\$ 10,525,000	Silverwood Phase I Development after deducting grants reallocated from Norenberg Visitor Center	2008
Three Rivers Park Dist.	\$ 2,415,000	Dakota Rail Regional Trail Development	2008

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Three Rivers Park Dist.	\$ 532,199	Weinkauf inholding - Lake Rebecca Park Reserve	2007
Three Rivers Park Dist.	\$ 648,644	Dakota Rail Regional Trail Design	2006
Three Rivers Park Dist.	\$ 235,000	Rask inholding - Lake Rebecca Park Reserve	2004
Three Rivers Park Dist.	\$ 1,327,000	Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area Development	2004
Three Rivers Park Dist.	\$ 5,165,470	Silverwood SRF Acquisition after deducting reimbursements made since 2002	2001
	<b>\$ 20,848,313</b>	<b>Three Rivers Park District Total</b>	
Washington County	\$ 540,000	Lake Elmo Park Maintenance Facility	1993
Washington County	\$ 500,000	St. Croix Bluffs 'Parcel 'A' (remainder from 2008 CIP)	1996
Washington County	\$ 19,000	Big Marine Park Reserve - Carlson Property (remainder of SG-00-31 & 06-121)	2000
Washington County	\$ 368,299	Big Marine Park Reserve - Richardson Property (remainder of SG-02-184)	2003
Washington County	\$ 381,701	Big Marine Park Reserve - Albrecht (resort) Property (remainder of SG-03-82)	2003
Washington County	\$ 74,152	Big Marine Park Reserve - Larson Property (remainder of SG-04-110)	2004
Washington County	\$ 25,275	Big Marine Park Reserve - Melbostad Property (remainder of SG-05-98 & 05-80)	2005
Washington County	\$ 31,430	Big Marine Park Reserve - Taylor Property (remainder of SG-06-143)	2006
Washington County	\$ 3,000,000	Big Marine Park Reserve - Phase I Development	2006
Washington County	\$ 13,534	Big Marine Park Reserve - Hohlt Property (remainder of SG-07-032)	2007
Washington County	\$ 273,141	Grey Cloud Island Regional Park - Kartarik Property (remainder of SG-07-114)	2007
	<b>\$ 5,226,532</b>	<b>Washington County Total</b>	
	<b>\$ 46,158,447</b>	<b>Grand Total as of May 7, 2009</b>	