

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

DATE: September 28, 2009

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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

SUBJECT: (2009-XXX) Amendment to FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund project list for Anoka County and reimbursement authorization for Anoka County regional park project financed with FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation

Introduction

Anoka County would like to change its FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund project list by inserting \$600,000 to replace two trail bridges in Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve and deferring \$600,000 originally proposed for FY 2011 to the FY 2012 appropriation. (See **Attachment 1, letter from John VondeLinde, Anoka County**)

The County would like to begin work this fall on the trail bridges prior to July 1, 2010 –which is the start date of State Fiscal Year 2011. The premise for the earlier start date is to rectify the immediate problem of the collapsed ramp to the bridge and to have access to the creek shoreline when the ground is frozen. The County would like to use its FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation to reimburse the initial County funding for this project.

This memorandum contains a review of the County’s request and uses applicable terms of the reimbursement Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. Staff recommends authorization to expend funds for these projects prior to July 1, 2010 with the stipulation that no grant funds to reimburse Anoka County for this project will be disbursed to the County until the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation is available and a grant agreement is executed for this project.

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

Last November the voters approved the “Land and Legacy Amendment” to the State’s constitution that raised the sales tax 3/8ths percent for the next 25 years. This new revenue is dedicated into four accounts--including the “Parks and Trails Fund”. Revenue in the Parks and Trails Fund must be spent to, “support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.” This can include expenditures to operate and maintain parks and trails, as well as expenditures for land acquisition and capital improvements. These appropriations must supplement—not supplant traditional funding sources.

The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$27,781,000 from the Parks and Trails Fund for the next two fiscal years to the Metropolitan Council for the following purposes:

- An earmark appropriation of \$40,000 for a grant to Hennepin County to plant trees along Victory Memorial Parkway.
- \$2,774,000 for Park Acquisition Opportunity Grants described in the previous section of this memorandum.
- \$24,967,000 for grants to the regional park agencies that is disbursed under a formula in the law. That formula considers each park agencies' population; the amount of park and trails visits and non-local visits each agency hosts per year; the amount each agency spends on regional park system operations and maintenance; and the amount of regional park and trail land each agency manages. Based on this formula, each park agency received a specific appropriation for grants. In this case, Anoka County's share was \$1,103,000 for State Fiscal Year 2010 and \$1,326,000 for State Fiscal Year 2011.

Amendment to Anoka County's FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund project list

In order to provide funding for the trail bridge replacement project, the County has requested that its Fiscal Year 2011 Parks and Trails Fund project list be amended by deferring five projects proposed to be financed with \$600,000 of Parks and Trails Fund appropriations to FY 2012, and inserting the trail bridge project in the FY 2011 list. The following table shows the amendment (highlighted in yellow) and the projects that are deferred.

Table 1: Anoka County's FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund Amended Project List

Park Agency's Priority	Park or Trail Name where project is located	Project Description	Project Total Cost (\$000's)	Other Funds Portion (\$000's)	Source of "Other Funds"	FY 2011 Park & Trail Fund Grant (\$000's)
1	Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve	Remove two existing pedestrian bridges that are failing; Construct two new pedestrian bridges, abutments, and approaches.	\$ 600	\$ -		\$ 600
2	Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park	Reconstruct and restore 1300' of Riverview Creek using native vegetation and bioengineering.	\$ 250	\$ 125	National Park Service, City of Coon Rapids	\$ 125
3	Martin Island Linwood Lakes Regional Park	Redevelop existing public boat access to Martin Lake including paving the parking lot, reconstructing the boat ramp and installation of a courtesy dock.	\$ 225	\$ -		\$ 225
4	Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve	Upgrades to campground restroom, utilities, site furnishings, roadways and parking pads.	\$ 376	\$ -		\$ 376
Anoka County Total			\$ 1,451	\$ 125		\$ 1,326

Anoka County Parks and Trails Fund Projects Deferred from FY 2011 to FY 2012

Park Agency's Priority	Park or Trail Name where project is located	Project Description	Project Total Cost (\$000's)	Other Funds Portion (\$000's)	Source of "Other Funds"	FY 2012 Park & Trail Fund Grant (\$000's)
1	Bunker Hills Regional Park, Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve.	Install five (5) Visitor Center displays at various regional park facilities, including digital monitors to display information relating to programs, events, and notices.	\$ 50	\$ -		\$ 50
2	Bunker Hills Regional Park and Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve	Design and install interpretive signs to educate visitors regarding natural, historic, cultural and archaeological resources.	\$ 35	\$ -		\$ 35
3	Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve	Design and construct shelter, building and infrastructure for outdoor Heritage Learning Center.	\$ 200	\$ -		\$ 200
4	Martin Island Linwood Lakes Regional Park	Camp Salie renovations including four (4) cabin renovations and enhanced public accessibility.	\$ 190	\$ -		\$ 190
5	Rum River Central Regional Park	Restore 100 acres of prairie and oak savanna habitat.	\$ 150	\$ 25	County Funds	\$ 125
Deferred Projects Total			\$ 625			\$ 600

Reimbursement request analysis

Anoka County would like to expend its own funds to begin work on the trail bridge replacement project proposed to be funded from the State Fiscal Year 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation.

The County is prepared to advance funding for this project prior to execution of the FY 2011 grant agreement for the project with the assurance that expenditures and contract commitments will be eligible for funding under the FY 2011 grant agreements.

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.

The trail bridge replacement projects is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f) for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost of the projects are consistent with the following Council approved master plan for Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve approved in September 1999.
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). In this case, that information is contained in **Attachment 1**.
3. Anoka County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for these projects prior to undertaking them.

Conclusion

This review concludes that Anoka County's request to amend its Fiscal Year 2011 Parks and Trails Fund project list to provide \$600,000 to replace two trail bridges in Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve and expend its own funds to begin work on this project prior to the beginning of State Fiscal Year 2011 is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). The timing of when Anoka County is reimbursed for its expenditures on this project is dependent on when the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation is available and on execution of a grant agreement for the project.

Recommendation

That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to Anoka County's FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund project list which provides \$600,000 to replace two trail bridges at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve and defers five projects to FY 2012 as shown in Table 1 of this memorandum, and authorizes Anoka County to expend its own funds on the trail bridge replacement project under the stipulation that the County will not be reimbursed for its expenses from the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation until the appropriation is available and after execution of a grant agreement for the project.

Attachment 1: Letter from John VondeLinde, Anoka County



Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

September 11, 2009

Arne Stefferud
Grants Analyst
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Mr. Stefferud:

The purpose of this letter is to request the authorization of the Metropolitan Council to amend the Anoka County portion of the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund CIP and to authorize Anoka County to initiate the replacement of trail bridges at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve as a reimbursement project.

Recently, Anoka County experienced the partial collapse of one of the ramps on a trail bridge at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve. The bridge serves as a crossing of Rice Creek for the county cross country ski trail system and also as a crossing for a portion of the Chomonix Golf Course. The county has addressed the problem in the short-term through temporary shoring. Photos are attached that further depict the problem.

In addition, there is a second bridge that is of the same construction and age. Due to concerns about the structural integrity of the second bridge, the county would also like to move forward with its replacement at the same time. Replacing both bridges at once will save in costs related to engineering, permitting, equipment mobilization, removals, and construction. Further it will prevent the potential untimely closure of the second bridge in the future.

The total estimated cost of replacing both bridges concurrently is \$600,000 including engineering and environmental permitting. This estimate presumes that the work will begin this fall, with construction through the winter and reopening in spring 2010. Winter work is necessary both to address the need for an immediate solution to the problem and to provide access to the shoreline when the ground is frozen.

To provide for the funding of the project, Anoka County is requesting that the 2011 Parks and Trails CIP be amended to add this project at a cost of \$600,000. Several projects in the 2011 CIP would be moved to the 2012 CIP to make way for the bridge replacements. A twelve month delay in these projects does not pose a significant hardship. A revised Anoka County FY 2011 Parks and Trails Legacy CIP spreadsheet is attached for reference.

The second request is to allow Anoka County to begin work on the project immediately with the intent that the county would seek reimbursement for the project when funds become available in FY 2011 (autumn 2010).

OPEN SPACES IN NEARBY PLACES

Phone: 763.757.3920

www.anokacountyparks.com

Fax: 763.755.0230

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you should have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John K. VonDeLinde', written in a cursive style.

John K. VonDeLinde
Director of Parks and Recreation

Attachments: photos, revised 2011 CIP

Location of trail bridges proposed to be replaced in Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve

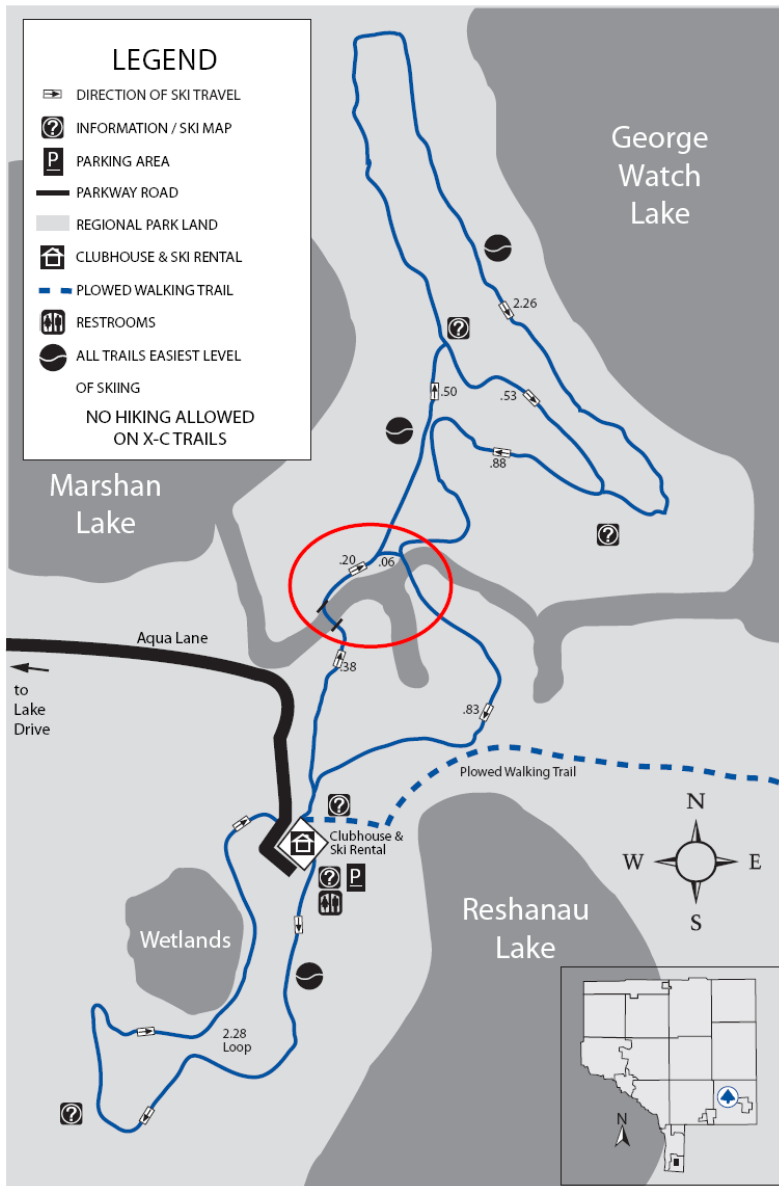


Photo 1: Damage to trail bridge ramp

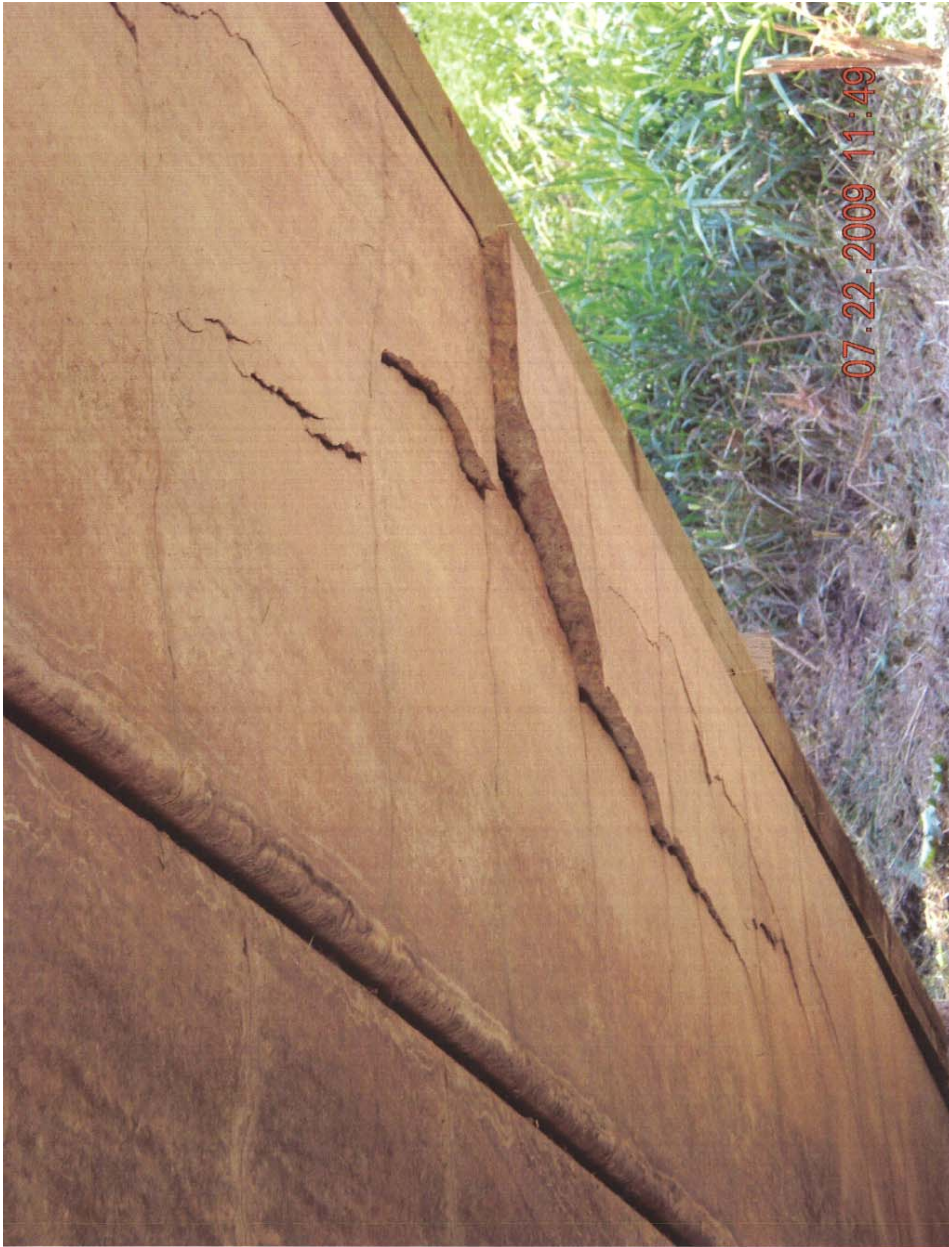


Photo 2: Jack to temporarily repair damage to trail bridge ramp

