

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
**390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101**  
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**DATE:** April 29, 2010  
**TO:** Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission  
**FROM:** Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651) 602-1360  
**SUBJECT:** (2010-xxx) Amendment to 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program

**INTRODUCTION**

Two regional park agencies (Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board and Washington County) have submitted requests to amend how they would spend their portion of funds appropriated for the 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The requests are found in **Attachment 1**.

This memorandum analyzes the requests for their consistency with Metropolitan Council approved master plans and recommends approving the amendment to the 2010-11 Parks CIP that incorporates these changes.

**AUTHORITY TO REVIEW**

Minnesota Statute Section 473.147 authorizes the Metropolitan Council with the advice of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to prepare and adopt a long-range system policy plan for regional recreation open space as part of the Council's metropolitan development guide. The policy plan shall include among other items, a "five year capital improvement program."

**ANALYSIS**

The Metropolitan Council adopted the 2010-15 Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP in December 2009. Each park agency was allocated a share of the CIP based on the following formula:

- 70% based on the percentage of each park agency's population
- 30% based on the percentage of non-local visits each park agency hosts

The park agencies submitted a prioritized list of projects to show how they would spend their share of the CIP if funds were appropriated for it. State bonds (\$10.5 million) and matching Metropolitan Council bonds (\$7 million) have been appropriated for the 2010-11 portion of the CIP. On April 28, the Metropolitan Council approved grant agreements for most of the projects in the CIP, but as noted in the introduction, two park agencies have proposed changes to how they would spend their CIP share.

The Mpls. Park Board's request is to use \$1 million originally proposed for development at the Bohemian Flats portion of Mississippi Gorge Regional Park, and instead use it for development at the B. F Nelson and Boom Island portion of Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park. The basis for the request is that the Park Board does not have access to Bohemian Flats because part of it is still used to store remnants of the collapsed I-35 W Bridge that is under litigation. Also, the Metropolitan Council's Transit Division needs access to this park for reinforcement of the Washington Avenue Bridge for the

Central Corridor Light Rail line. Consequently no park development could take place for at least two years. The Park Board's request complements funding already granted for Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park.

Washington County's request is to use \$599,000 originally proposed to construct a maintenance facility at Big Marine Park Reserve for two projects:

\$249,000 to complete St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park campground improvements

\$350,000 to complete the Lake Elmo Park Reserve winter recreation area

The basis for this request is that the County is still working on the development master plan update for Big Marine Park Reserve and subsequently doesn't yet know where the maintenance facility should be located. The conceptual designs for the projects listed above and associated cost estimates indicate that additional funds are needed to complete these projects. The County's request complements funding already granted for these projects.

In order to proceed with approving grant agreements for the projects listed in **Table 1: Amendment to 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program**, the Metropolitan Council must first approve the amendment. Assuming the Council approves the amendment to the 2010-11 Parks CIP in May, the Council would consider approving grant agreements for these projects as part of an amendment to the Council's 2010 Unified Capital Program in June.

**Table 1: Amendment to 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program**

Deleted items are ~~stricken~~ and new items are underlined

Regional Park Implementing Agency	Agency Priority	Project Location	Project Description	State Bonds (\$000s)	Metro Council Bonds (\$000s)	Project Total Subgrant (\$000s)
Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board	2	Mississippi Central Riverfront RP	Continue Boom Island Rehab and BF Nelson Development projects initially begun with FY 2010 Parks and Trails Fund grant and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) grant. Project includes: reconditioning the Boom Island soils, new shelters and concessions, picnic facilities and restrooms, parking and drives, walks/trails & trail bridge, Pioneer statue relocation, lighting, utilities, irrigation, site furnishings (e.g., benches, picnic tables, bike racks), canoe landing, landscaping & related facilities, design & engineering & project management. MWMO will only fund design, engineering, pervious surfaces & landscaping.	<del>\$825</del>	<del>\$ 175</del>	<u>\$1,000</u>
				<u>\$1,650</u>	<u>\$ 350</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
	3	<del>Mississippi Gorge Regional Park— Bohemian Flats</del>	<del>Start master plan implementation to construct parking lot, river access, picnic shelter &amp; restrooms, playground, lighting, splash pad and trails. Includes design, engineering, &amp; project management time.</del>	<del>\$825</del>	<del>\$ 175</del>	<u>\$1,000</u>
Washington County	2	<del>Big Marine Park Reserve</del>	<del>Design and construction of a new maintenance facility, including office space, vehicle storage, fuel dispensing, etc. to support the park.</del>	<del>\$ 599</del>	<del>\$</del>	<del>\$ 599</del>
		<u>St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park</u>	<u>Complete campground improvements; including building, dump station, well, septic, water distribution, electric upgrades and related infrastructure / amenities / landscaping. Supplements Grant SG-2008-064.</u>	<u>\$ 249</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 249</u>
	3	<u>Lake Elmo Park Reserve</u>	<u>Complete Winter Rec. Area; including ski trail lighting, roads, parking, barn remodel, signage, and related infrastructure / amenities / landscaping. Supplements Grant SG-2009-024 and FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation.</u>	<u>\$ 350</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 350</u>

## **CONCLUSION**

The amendment to the 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP provides funds for projects that are consistent with Metropolitan Council approved master plans, and complement other grants the Council has provided for those projects.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Metropolitan Council approve the amendment to the 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP as shown on Table 1.

**Attachment 1: Mpls. Park Board, Washington County and Three Rivers Park District requests to amend their portion of 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP**



March 29, 2010

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Dear Arne

Enclose is the MPRB's requested changes to the 2010 Parks and Open Space Funding. The Park Board has been forced into postponing development activities at the Bohemian Flat Park because of the I-35W law suits. The Bridge debris remains on site without any fixed date for it to be removed. In addition, the Central Corridor Light Rail Project has asked for access to the Park for the rehabilitation of the Washington Avenue Bridge. The combination of these to actions by the state and Met Council has put any development activities at Bohemian Flats out at least two years. Therefore, the MPRB is asking that the \$1,000,000 MPOSC funds programmed for the Bohemian Flats project be reallocated to the Boom Island – BF Nelson project.

Thanks for your help with processing this request. If you need additional information please let me know.

Sincerely

Judd Rietkerk  
Director of Planning and Project Management

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*Vice President*  
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Public Works Department  
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John D. Elholm, CPRP  
Parks Director

April 22, 2010

Arne Stefferud  
Planning Analyst – Parks  
Metropolitan Council  
390 North Robert Street  
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**REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY'S PORTION OF THE 2010-2011 METRO REGIONAL PARKS CIP**

Dear Arne:

Washington County requests that the Metropolitan Council consider a change to our request for funding through the 2010-2011 Metropolitan Regional Park CIP. We had originally proposed that \$599,000 of our allocation be directed toward a new maintenance facility at Big Marine Park Reserve. However, we are currently completing the master plan for this park, and the location of the maintenance facility has not yet been determined. We would prefer to wait until a location for the facility is decided before requesting funds for the project.

Washington County is currently working on two other capital projects within our park system. These are the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park campground improvements and the Lake Elmo Park Reserve winter recreation area. During the conceptual design of these facilities, it's become apparent that additional funds will be necessary to properly complete these projects. We request that \$599,000 of Washington County's allocation be used for:

- \$249,000 to supplement grant #SG-2008-064 for the completion of the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park campground improvements. This would also include costs to upgrade electrical service found to be insufficient in the campground.
- \$350,000 to supplement grant #SG-2009-024 for the completion of the Lake Elmo Park Reserve winter recreation area. Estimated costs related to barn remodeling have been higher than initially anticipated.

If you have any questions or need further information, please let me know. I can be reached at (651) 430-4303 or at [john.elholm@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:john.elholm@co.washington.mn.us).

Respectfully,

John D. Elholm  
Parks Director

c: Don Theisen, Director, Public Works Department

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