

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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**DATE:** March 1, 2012

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

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

**SUBJECT:** (2012-xxx) Change in scope of Grant SG-2010-083, Ramsey County Metropolitan Parks & Open Space Commission District E: Tony Yarusso

### INTRODUCTION

The scope of Grant SG-2010-083 is currently limited to matching a Federal grant for the design and construction of a trail along Lower Afton Road at Battle Creek Regional Park. Due to favorable bids on that project, Ramsey County wants to change the scope of Grant SG-2010-083 to allow \$100,000 of the grant to be used for design services for park, road and trail redevelopment at Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park.

The Metropolitan Council must consider and approve the proposed change in scope of the grant. This staff report contains a review of this request under applicable terms of the grant agreement and recommends approving the change in scope of the grant. It also recommends extending the grant's expiration date to June 30, 2014.

### 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".

### ANALYSIS

Grant SG-2010-083 was funded with a portion of the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation under Laws of MN 2009, Chapter 172. The appropriation legislation requires the Metropolitan Council to disburse its appropriation among the 10 regional park agencies under a formula. The grant amount is based on that formula. Consequently, as long as the change in scope of the project is supporting a regional park or trail, the use of the appropriation is consistent with the legislation.

In this case, the changed grant scope would allow Ramsey County to finance portions of two projects:

1. Constructing a trail along Lower Afton Road at Battle Creek Regional Park. The grant is a match to a federal grant for the trail's construction.
2. Design services needed to construct park, road and trail redevelopment at Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park. Additional funds to construct the project are financed

with Grant SG-2011-085, a grant financed with FY 2012 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations and which expires on June 30, 2014.

Both projects are consistent with applicable master plans for those parks.

In order to consider this request for a change in scope of the grant, Section 9.2 of the grant agreement states:

**9.2 Amendments.** *Any amendment to this grant agreement must be in writing and will not be effective until it has been executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved the original grant contract, or their successors in office.*

The proposed change in scope of Grant SG-2010-083 to allow \$100,000 of the grant to be used for design services for park, road and trail redevelopment at Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park is consistent with the conditions of section 9.2 of the grant agreement because:

1. Ramsey County has submitted a written statement to the Council describing the situation and giving reasons for the change in scope, as shown in **Attachment 1**.
2. The change in scope of Grant SG-2010-083 is consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plans for Battle Creek Regional Park and Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park.

Although Ramsey County has not requested an extension to Grant SG-2010-083, it is reasonable to extend it to June 30, 2014 from its current expiration date of June 30, 2012 for the following reasons:

1. The grant's original scope for the Battle Creek Trail is funding a match to a federal grant for that trail's construction. Laws of MN 2009, Chapter 172, Article 3, Section 7 states that if a project receives federal funds, the time period of the appropriation is extended to equal the availability of federal funding.
2. The grant's revised scope is complementing the project financed with Grant SG-2011-085 for Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park development. That grant expires on June 30, 2014.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The proposed change in scope of Grant SG-2010-083 to allow \$100,000 of the grant to be used for design services for park, road and trail redevelopment at Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park is consistent with the conditions of section 9.2 of the grant agreement.
2. It is reasonable to extend Grant SG-2010-083's expiration date to June 30, 2014 since it is matching a federal grant and complementing the work of grant SG-2011-083 which expires on that date.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to Grant SG-2010-083 to allow up to \$100, 000 of the grant to be used in conjunction with Grant SG-2011-085 for professional design services for park, road and trail redevelopment at Sucker Lake Road between East and West Vadnais Lakes; and change the expiration date of the grant to June 30, 2014.

**Attachment 1: Letter from Scott Yonke, Ramsey County**



**Parks and Recreation Department**

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January 31, 2012

Metropolitan Council  
Attn: Arne Stefferud  
390 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Grant SG-2010-083 – Scope Modification

Dear Mr. Stefferud:

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation (RPCRD) is requesting to modify Grant SG-2010-083 project scope to allow a portion of the funds in the amount of \$100,000 to be used at Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park in conjunction with Grant SG-2011-085 for professional design services for an extensive park, road and trail redevelopment for Sucker Lake Road between the East and West Vadnais Lakes.

RPCRD is currently utilizing Grant SG-2010-083 for the local construction match to Federal funds, and professional design services for the Lower Afton Trail Extension Project. A construction bid has been awarded for the project and is less than originally anticipated resulting, in a reduce amount of Federal and local match funds for construction.

RPCRD requests, Item 2 (Grantees Duties or Grant Project) in the current Grant SG-2010-083 be amended by adding the following language: "At Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park, a portion of funds in the amount of \$100,000 will be used in conjunction with Grant SG-2011-085 for professional design services for an extensive park, road and trail redevelopment on Sucker Lake Road between the East and West Vadnais Lakes."

If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to call me at 651-748-2500, extension 330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Yonke'.

Scott Yonke, PLA, ASLA  
Landscape Architect  
Director of Planning and Development

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