



Community Development Committee

Management Committee: April 22, 2009
Metropolitan Council: May 13, 2009

Meeting date: April 20, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	April 8, 2009
Subject:	2009-2014 Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Program and Budget Amendment
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2009 Capital Program and Budget
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arne Stefferud (651-602-1360) Alan Morris, Principal Financial Analyst (651-602-1446)
Division/Department:	Community Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2009 Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) by adding \$ 4,700,000 in new spending authority to the Land Acquisition Opportunity Account
- Approve changes as detailed in Attachment 1.

Background

The Parks and Open Space Program within the Community Development Department maintains two accounts to provide funding to acquire land for the regional park system:

- The Parks and Trails Fund (PTF) Acquisition Account is funded with regional funds and, in the future, with state funding from the Parks and Trails Fund. Any parcel within regional park system boundaries is eligible for grants from these state and regional funds.
- The Environmental Trust Fund (EFT) Acquisition Account, funded with state Environmental Trust Fund and regional funding. Environmental Trust Fund grants are more restrictive in terms of which parcels are grant eligible.

The accounts were established to provide spending authority to the Parks and Open Space Program prior to the awarding of specific grants to park implementing agencies. Using these accounts allows grants to be awarded on a timely basis without waiting for a unified capital program amendment. The Council periodically has added authority to the accounts through capital program amendments as regional bonding capacity becomes available.

The balance in the Parks and Trails Fund Acquisition Account has been reduced to \$100,682 as of the end of March, 2009 as grants have been approved and funds transferred from the account. The proposed capital program amendment adds \$4.7 million to the account to provide additional funding for acquisition grants. The \$4.7 million comes from available regional bonding capacity for parks.

The 2009-2014 Parks Capital Improvement Plan adopted by the Council on December 10, 2008 assumes that the Council will issue \$7 million per year or \$14,000,000 per state biennium for parks. Regional bonding is used first to provide the 40 percent match to state funds for projects in the parks capital improvement plan (CIP). Once the Council knows how much of the regional borrowing capacity in a biennium is needed for the CIP match, the balance can be made available for land acquisition. Given the size of the CIP funded in the last biennium, there is \$9.3 million in regional bonding capacity available for land acquisition over the next two years. This amendment proposes adding half of that amount, or \$4.7 million, to the Parks and Trails Fund Acquisition Account. The remainder will be added to the accounts after the \$4.7 million has been awarded.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council, through its Parks and Open Space Program, places high priority on the acquisition of park land within the regional park system. This capital program amendment helps achieve this goal.

Funding and Fiscal Impact

This funding for this proposed capital program amendment comes from available parks regional borrowing capacity. The 2009-2014 Parks Capital Improvement Plan assumes that the Council will issue an average of \$7 million per year in regional bonds for parks. This amendment is consistent with the approved capital improvement plan. The proposed amendment is also consistent with the Council stated goal to keep the impact of Council property taxes on existing regional taxpayers flat over time.

Known Support / Opposition

None known.

May 13th Capital Program & Budget Amendment

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ATTACHMENT 1

	CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED					PROPOSED CHANGE					AMENDED					2009 Budget	Multi-Year Authorization	
	Federal	State	Other	Regional	Total	Federal	State	Other	Regional	Total	Federal	State	Other	Regional	Total			
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE																		
Environ. Trust Fund (ETF) Acquisition Acct																		
Three River Park District-Lake Rebecca PR					\$ -				\$ 304,725	\$ 304,725				\$ 304,725	\$ 304,725	\$ -	\$ 304,725	
Three River Park District-Lake Rebecca PR					\$ -				\$ 492,750	\$ 492,750				\$ 492,750	\$ 492,750	\$ -	\$ 492,750	
ETF Acquisition Acct-Transfers to Grants				\$ 898,157	\$ 898,157				\$ (797,475)	\$ (797,475)						\$ -	\$ (797,475)	
ETF Acquisition Acct-Addition of New Funds				see above					\$ 4,700,000	\$ 4,700,000				\$ 4,800,882	\$ 4,800,882	\$ -	\$ 4,700,000	
Parks & Trails Fund (PTF) Acquisition Acct																		
Minneapolis Park Board-Above the Falls RP					\$ -		\$ 83,802		\$ 55,888	\$ 139,670			\$ 83,802		\$ 55,888	\$ 139,670	\$ -	\$ 139,670
Dakota County-Lebanon Hills RP					\$ -		\$ 10,440		\$ 6,960	\$ 17,400			\$ 10,440		\$ 6,960	\$ 17,400	\$ -	\$ 17,400
PTF Acquisition Acct-Transfers to Grants		\$ 1,500,000		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,500,000		\$ (84,242)		\$ (82,828)	\$ (157,070)			\$ 1,405,758		\$ 937,172	\$ 2,342,930	\$ -	\$ (157,070)
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ 1,898,157	\$ 3,398,157	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,700,000	\$ 4,700,000	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ 6,598,157	\$ 8,098,157	\$ -	\$ 4,700,000	

