



Community Development Committee

Meeting date: September 20, 2010

Business Item
Item: 2010-316

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date: | September 7, 2010 |
| Subject: | Request for reimbursement consideration in future Regional Parks CIP for Mississippi River Regional Trail, North Urban Regional Trail and signing projects, Dakota County |
| District(s), Member(s): | 15, Daniel Wolter and 16, Wendy Wulff |
| Policy/Legal Reference: | Minnesota Statute Section 473.315 |
| Staff Prepared/Presented: | Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651-602-1360) |
| Division/Department: | Community Development Division |

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County in future regional parks capital improvement programs up to \$1,687,000 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.

Background

Dakota County has asked the Metropolitan Council to consider reimbursing the County in future regional parks capital improvement programs up to \$1,687,000 for the following capital projects:

\$1,100,000 as a match to a \$1,000,000 federal Transportation Enhancement grant to develop 3.7 miles of the Mississippi River Regional Trail in the City of Rosemount from the City of Inver Grove Heights/Rosemount border to Spring Lake Park Reserve.

\$415,000 as a match to a \$709,000 federal Transportation Enhancement grant for acquisition and construction of 1.1 miles of the North Urban Regional Trail through Dodge Nature Center in the City of West St. Paul

\$172,000 for system-wide signage including primary and secondary entrance signs, directional, regulatory and interpretive signs.

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*.

Rationale

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

North Urban Regional Trail (NURT) master plan update approved in April 1997.

- 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.

Funding

At this time there are about \$42 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 as of August 23, 2010.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission reviewed this request at its meeting on September 7. The Commission unanimously approved the recommendation. There is no known opposition to this proposal.

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

DATE: August 23, 2010

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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

SUBJECT: (2010-316) Request for reimbursement consideration in future Regional Parks CIP for Mississippi River Regional Trail, North Urban Regional Trail 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 \$1,687,000 for the following capital projects:

\$1,100,000 as a match to a \$1,000,000 federal Transportation Enhancement grant to develop 3.7 miles of the Mississippi River Regional Trail in the City of Rosemount from the City of Inver Grove Heights/Rosemount border to Spring Lake Park Reserve.

\$415,000 as a match to a \$709,000 federal Transportation Enhancement grant for acquisition and construction of 1.1 miles of the North Urban Regional Trail through Dodge Nature Center in the City of West St. Paul

\$172,000 for system-wide signage including primary and secondary entrance signs, directional, regulatory and interpretive signs. (**See Attachment 1, letter from Steve Sullivan**)

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*.

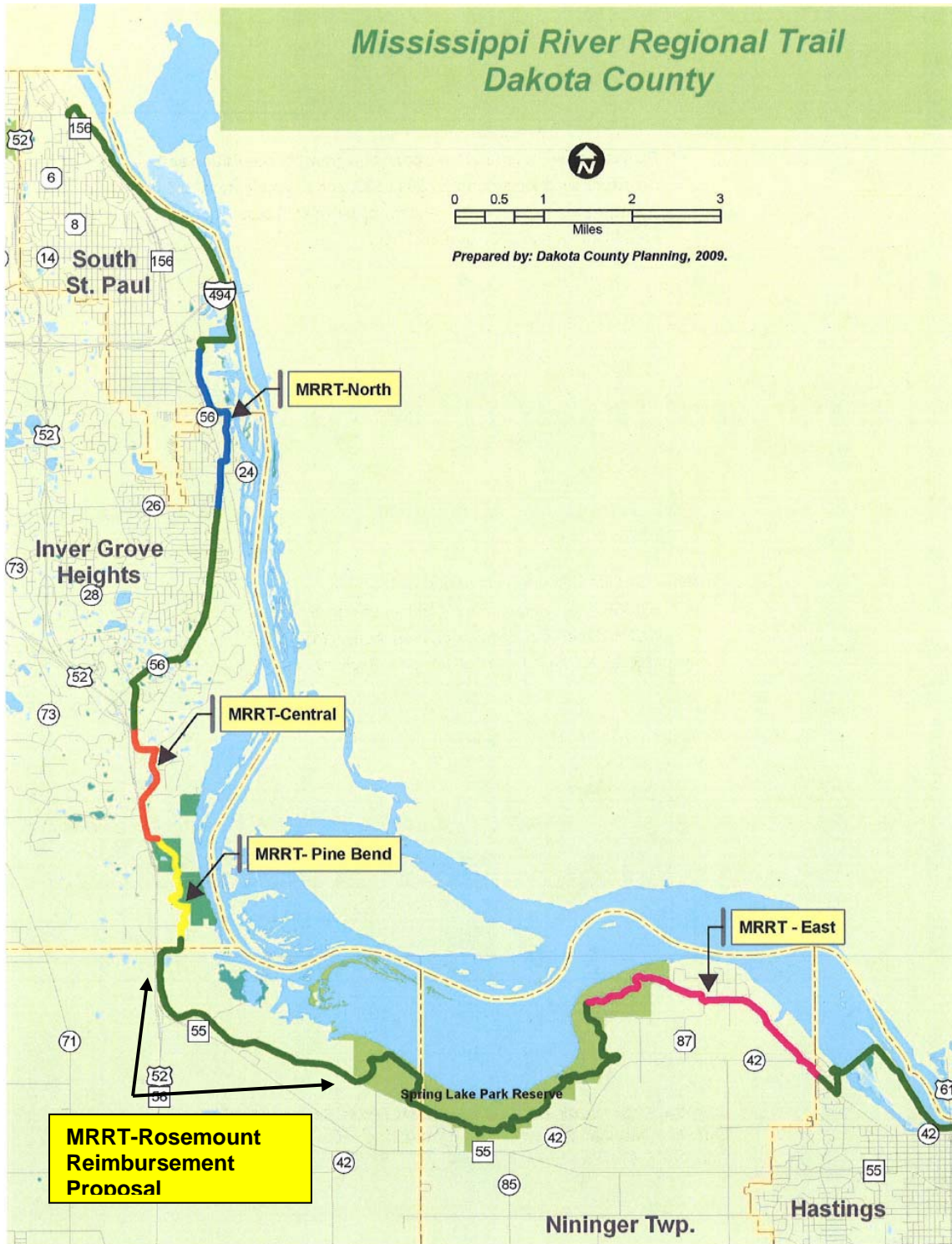
Authority to review

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 (MRRT) 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). On June 24, 2009 the Metropolitan Council approved reimbursement consideration for up to \$2,100, 665 as a match to \$3,395,909 of federal grants for MRRT-North, Central, Pine Bend and East sections. The County’s current request is for MRRT-Rosemount section. All of these MRRT segments are shown in **Figure 1: Mississippi River Regional Trail—Dakota County**

Figure 1: Mississippi River Regional Trail—Dakota County



In April 1997, the Metropolitan Council approved the master plan for the North Urban Regional Trail (NURT)—Referral No. 16366-1. The master plan called for construction of a portion of the trail within the Dodge Nature Center including the acquisition of 3 acres needed for the trail right of way. To-date the

Metropolitan Council has approved two grants for trail acquisition and construction of 1.1 miles of trail within the Dodge Nature Center as follows:

- 1) Grant SG-2009-041 for \$279,000. This is financed from the FY 2010 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation to match a \$700,000 federal grant
- 2) Grant SG-2010-068 for \$96,000. This is financed from the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation. It provides addition match to the \$700,000 federal grant described above.

The County received another federal grant of \$709,000 for this same trail project. Its current request is that up to \$415,000 of County funding for match to this grant be eligible for reimbursement in a future regional parks capital improvement program.

The County's third request for reimbursement consideration of up to \$172,000 for signage in regional trails and parks is consistent with the master plans where the signs will be constructed. To-date the Metropolitan Council approved a \$303,000 grant (SG-2010-064) for signs in Lebanon Hills Regional Park and Spring Lake Park Reserve. This grant is financed from the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation. The County's current request is that up to \$172,000 of County funding budgeted for signage in other regional parks and trails for 2011 be eligible for reimbursement in a future regional parks capital improvement program.

Reimbursement request analysis

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

| Table 1: Dakota County's Metro Regional Parks CIP Reimbursement Consideration Request | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Project Title | Federal Grant | Dakota County Funds proposed for reimbursement from Metro Regional Parks CIP | Project timeline | Other Conditions or Comments |
| MRRT-Rosemount acquisition and construction | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,100,000 | Final design 2010/2011 with construction beginning 2011 or early 2012 | Match to federal grant |
| NURT-Dodge Nature center section acquisition and construction | \$ 709,000 | \$ 415,000 | Final design 2010/2011 with construction beginning 2011 or early 2012 | Match to federal grant |
| System-wide signage | Not applicable | \$ 172,000 | 2011 | |
| TOTAL ALL PROJECTS | \$ 1,709,000 | \$ 1,687,000 | | |

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:

2. 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

North Urban Regional Trail (NURT) master plan update approved in April 1997.
 - 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 \$42 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 as of August 23, 2010.

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 \$1,687,000 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 \$1,687,000 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 \$1,687,000 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
Lynn Thompson, Director

Dakota County
Western Service Center
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Apple Valley, MN 55124

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Environmental Mgmt Dept
Office of GIS
Parks & Open Space Department
Surveyor's Office
Transit Office
Transportation Department
Water Resources Department

June 24, 2010

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 final design/engineering, construction and associated expenses for regional capital improvement projects.

DC continues to advance the development of multiple segments of the Mississippi River Regional Trail (MRRT) and the North Urban Regional Trail (NURT). As planning advances, the updated cost estimates more clearly define County investment required later in 2010 and into 2011. Therefore, eligibility for reimbursement of County funds for the MRRT and NURT projects is requested for:

MRRT in Rosemount from Inver Grove Heights city limit to Spring Lake Park Reserve (3.7 miles):

- DC has received a federal transportation grant for acquisition and construction in the amount of \$1,000,000, and has committed a County contribution of \$175,000 for final design/engineering and \$925,000 as grant match and for other related costs. Final design is schedule for 2010/2011 with construction beginning late 2011 or early 2012.
- Total Reimbursement Eligibility Request: \$1,100,000

NURT through the Dodge Nature Center, West St. Paul (1.1 miles)

- DC has received a federal transportation grant for acquisition and construction in the amount of \$709,000, and has committed a County contribution of \$125,000 for final design/engineering and \$290,000 as grant match and for other related costs. Final design is schedule for 2010/2011 with construction beginning late 2011 or early 2012.
- Total Reimbursement Eligibility Request: \$415,000

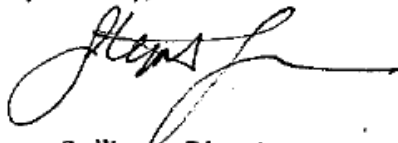
Furthermore, DC seeks consideration for eligibility for future reimbursement of County funds for:

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 \$172,000 have been budgeted for implementation in 2011.

Thank you for consideration of these requests.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sullivan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Sullivan, Director
Dakota County Parks and Open Space Department

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 Aug. 23, 2010

| Park Agency Name | Outstanding amount per project for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration | Project Description (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project) | Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anoka County | \$ 0 | No outstanding reimbursements. | |
| City of Bloomington | \$ 0 | Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve: Reimbursement for site restoration of 6101-84th Street parcel paid off with \$37,000 in 2010-11 Parks CIP grant | 2005 |
| Carver County | \$ 100,000 | Lake Waconia Regional Park-Demolition of Buildings | 2007 |
| Caver County | \$ 2,288,361 | Lake Waconia Regional Park - Acquisition of land for park including Lake Waconia ballroom after \$423,000 deduction from 2010-11 Parks CIP reimbursement grant | 2004 and 2008 |
| Caver County | \$ 1,072,000 | Financing local match for a \$1,976,000 federal grant to develop the Dakota Rail Regional Trail | 2008 |
| | \$ 3,460,361 | Carver County Total | |
| Dakota County | \$ 198,634 | Lake Byllesby Regional Park road project after \$225,000 deduction from 2008-09 CIP reimbursement grant | 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 |

| Park Agency Name | Outstanding amount per project for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration | Project Description (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project) | Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dakota County | \$ 200,000 | Lebanon Hills Regional Park visitor center construction after \$445,000 deduction from 2010-11 Parks CIP reimbursement grant | 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 |
| Dakota County | \$ 741,000 | Miesville Ravine Park Reserve acquisition (Nelson property) | 2006 |
| 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 |
| Dakota County | \$ 550,000 | Miss. River Regional Trail (North) acquisition and construction match to \$837,264 Federal Trans. Enhancement grant | 2009 |
| Dakota County | \$ 150,000 | Miss. River Regional Trail (Central) acquisition and construction match to \$772,800 Federal Trans. Enhancement grant. | 2009 |
| Dakota County | \$ 50,665 | Miss. River Regional Trail (Pine Bend) final engineering and construction match to \$943,312 Federal Trans. Enhancement grant. | 2009 |
| Dakota County | \$ 325,000 | Miss. River Regional Trail (East) acquisition and construction match to \$842,533 Federal Trans. Enhancement grant. | 2009 |
| Dakota County | \$ 400,000 | Miss. River Regional Trail general project budget assistance to projects listed above if needed | 2009 |
| Dakota County | \$ 125,000 | System-wide signage | 2009 |
| Dakota County | \$ 100,000 | Schaars Bluff Gathering Center in Spring Lake Park Reserve for site landscaping, ecological improvements, signage and other site amenities | 2009 |
| | \$ 8,641,217 | Dakota County Total | |

| Park Agency Name | Outstanding amount per project for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration | Project Description (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project) | Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mpls. Park & Rec. Bd. | \$ 300,000 | North Mississippi RP development at boat launch area when sufficient interest earnings are provided | 2009 |
| Ramsey County | \$ 0 | Battle Creek Regional Park - Acquisition parcel No. 6 reimbursement paid off with \$35,000 in 2010-11 Parks CIP reimbursement grant | 2007 |
| City of St. Paul | \$ 195,000 | Phalen Regional Park: construction of a new children's play area in the picnic grounds. Replaced play area built in 1978 adjacent to the picnic pavilion., which did not meet ADA requirements or CPSC safety guidelines. Constructed on 2005. | 2005 |
| City of St. Paul | \$ 611,000 | Como Regional Park: Complete construction of Hamm's Waterfall, including pools, walkways, landscaping, mechanical and electrical systems. Completed 2005 / 06 | 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. Completed in 2007 | 2005 |
| | \$ 1,089,000 | City of St. Paul Total | |
| Scott County | \$ 2,963,667 | Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, ~400-acre Doyle Acquisition after deduction from 2010-11 Parks CIP reimbursement grant | 2004 |
| Scott County | \$ 3,526,192 | Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, ~60 acre Fun on the Farm Site acquisition | 2007 |
| | \$ 6,489,859 | Scott County Total | |
| Three Rivers Park Dist. | \$ 12,056,000 | Silverwood Special Recreation Feature - Phase I Development | 2008 |
| Three Rivers Park Dist. | \$ (1,531,000) | Change in scope of grants SG-2006-134 and SG-2006-172 to use them for Phase 1 development at Silverwood Special Recreation Feature | 2008 |
| Three Rivers Park Dist. | \$ 2,415,000 | Dakota Rail Regional Trail Development | 2008 |
| Three Rivers Park Dist. | \$ 532,199 | Lake Rebecca Park Reserve - Acquisition of Weinkauf parcel | 2007 |
| Three Rivers Park Dist. | \$ 648,644 | Dakota Rail Regional Trail Design | 2006 |

| Park Agency Name | Outstanding amount per project for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration | Project Description (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project) | Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Three Rivers Park Dist. | \$ 235,000 | Lake Rebecca Park Reserve - Acquisition of Rask parcel | 2004 |
| Three Rivers Park Dist. | \$ 1,327,000 | Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area Development | 2004 |
| Three Rivers Park Dist. | \$ 1,547,470 | Silverwood Special Recreation Feature - Acquisition after \$3,618,000 deduction from 2010-11 Parks CIP reimbursement grant | 2001 |
| | \$ 17,230,313 | Three Rivers Park District Total | |
| Washington County | \$ 540,000 | Lake Elmo Park Reserve - Maintenance Facility | 1993 |
| Washington County | \$ 0 | St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park - acquisition of 'Parcel 'A' reimbursement paid off with \$560,000 in 2010-11 Parks CIP reimbursement grant | 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 |
| | \$ 4,726,532 | Washington County Total | |
| | \$ 41,937,282 | Grand Total as of August 23, 2010 | |