

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 26, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date May 17, 2010
Prepared:
Subject: **Amendment to 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program**

Proposed Action:

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

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

The Committee Chair noted that regional park agencies had the prerogative to change how they spend their portion of the regional parks capital improvement program as long as the projects are consistent with Metropolitan Council-approved master plans. The Council has approved such amendments to the CIP in the past under these conditions. The Committee unanimously approved the recommendation.



Date:	May 10, 2010
Subject:	Amendment to 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program
District(s), Member(s):	8, Lynette Wittsack and 12, Sherry Broecker
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statute Section 473.147
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651-602-1360)
Division/Department:	Community Development Division

Proposed Action

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

Background

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).

Rationale

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.

Funding

State bonds (\$10.5 million) and matching Metropolitan Council bonds (\$7 million) have been appropriated for the 2010-11 portion of the CIP. The projects described above are funded from that park agency's share of the CIP.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission reviewed this request at its meeting on May 4. The Commission unanimously approved the recommendation. There is no known opposition to this proposal.

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.	\$825	\$ 175	\$1,000
				<u>\$1,650</u>	<u>\$ 350</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
	3	Mississippi Gorge Regional Park—Bohemian Flats	Start master plan implementation to construct parking lot, river access, picnic shelter & restrooms, playground, lighting, splash pad and trails. Includes design, engineering, & project management time.	\$825	\$ 175	\$1,000
Washington County	2	Big Marine Park Reserve	Design and construction of a new maintenance facility; including office space, vehicle storage, fuel dispensing, etc. to support the park.	\$ 599	\$	\$ 599
		<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>
	<u>3</u>	<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>

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

DATE: April 29, 2010
TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
FROM: Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651) 602-1360
SUBJECT: (2010-189) 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)
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Washington County	2	Big Marine Park Reserve	Design and construction of a new maintenance facility, including office space, vehicle storage, fuel dispensing, etc. to support the park.	\$ 599	\$ —	\$ 599
		<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 and Washington County requests to amend their portion of 2010-11 Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP



March 29, 2010

Arne Stefferud
Planning Analyst-Parks
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Administrative Offices
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227

Operations Center
3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1000

Phone: 612-230-6400
Fax: 612-230-6500

www.minneapolisparcs.org

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

President
John Erwin

Vice President
M. Annie Young

Commissioners
Brad Bourm
Bob Fine
Carol A. Kummer
Jon C. Olson
Anita Tabb
Scott Vreeland
Liz Wielinski

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Superintendents Emeritus
Mary Merrill Anderson
David Fisher



Public Works Department
Parks Division

Donald J. Theisen, P.E.
Director/County Engineer

John D. Elholm, CPRP
Parks Director

April 22, 2010

Arne Stefferud
Planning Analyst – Parks
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

**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.

Respectfully,

John D. Elholm
Parks Director

c: Don Theisen, Director, Public Works Department

11660 Myeron Road North, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082
Phone: 651-430-4300 • Fax: 651-430-4350 • TTY: 651-430-6246
www.co.washington.mn.us
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