

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
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DATE: December 21, 2009

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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

SUBJECT: (2010-xxx) Request to amend Scott County's FY 2010 Parks and Trails Fund project list and related amendment to Metropolitan Council's 2010 Unified Capital Improvement Program

INTRODUCTION

On July 8, 2009 the Metropolitan Council approved grants to Scott County that were financed with its share of the Fiscal Year 2010 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation. Scott County has submitted a request to change those grants as follows:

Grant: SG-2009-033, \$96,000
Purpose: Cedar Lake Farm Development, Phase 1
Requested Change: That this grant be canceled and the funding reallocated to the trail and park system planning projects described in grants SG-2009-34 and SG2009-036 below.

Grant: SG-2009-034, \$25,000
Purpose: Prepare Scott County Regional Trail Master Plan
Requested Change: Modify grant project description to update the Scott Regional Trail Master Plan and complete a master plan for the Spring Lake Regional Trail. Increase grant allocation to \$56,000.

Grant: SG-2009-036, \$75,000
Purpose: Cedar Lake Farm Development Master Plan
Requested Change: Modify grant to fund a park system plan and development master plans for Cedar Lake Farm and Doyle-Kennefick regional parks. Increase grant allocation to \$140,000.

The reasons for these changes are found in **Attachment 1, letter from Mark Themig, Scott County**

This memorandum reviews the County's request for its consistency with the appropriation legislation and recommends that the Metropolitan Council approve these changes through an amendment to its 2010 Unified Capital Improvement Program

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 November 2008 the voters approved an amendment to the State's constitution that raised the sales tax 3/8ths percent for the next 25 years. This new revenue is dedicated into four accounts--including the "Parks and Trails Fund". Revenue in the Parks and Trails Fund must be spent to "support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance." This can include expenditures to operate and maintain parks and trails, as well as expenditures for land acquisition and capital improvements. These appropriations must supplement—not supplant traditional funding sources.

The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$27,781,000 from the Parks and Trails Fund for the next two fiscal years to the Metropolitan Council for the following purposes:

- An earmark appropriation of \$40,000 for a grant to Hennepin County to plant trees along Victory Memorial Parkway.
- \$2,774,000 for Park Acquisition Opportunity Grants which are matched with \$1,849,000 of Metropolitan Council bonds.
- \$24,967,000 for grants to the regional park agencies that is disbursed under a formula in the law. That formula considers each park agencies' population; the amount of park and trails visits and non-local visits each agency hosts per year; the amount each agency spends on regional park system operations and maintenance; and the amount of regional park and trail land each agency manages. Based on this formula, each park agency received a specific appropriation for grants. In this case, Scott County's share was \$246,000 for State Fiscal Year 2010 and \$296,000 for State Fiscal Year 2011.

ANALYSIS

As stated in the County's letter the premise for the changes to these grants is to,

"...more effectively use these new resources to make better legacy investments if we take a different approach that focuses on the following projects:

- A park system plan that includes development master plans for both Cedar Lake Farm and Doyle-Kennefick regional parks.
- Master plans for select regional trails in northern Scott County.

Since master plans are required for most of the existing and new funding opportunities, completing the development master plans will make these regional facilities eligible for [future] funding."

Each regional park implementing agency is responsible for carrying out the projects financed with the FY 2010 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation. All of the projects funded with the appropriation must "support regional parks and trails" to be consistent with the constitutionally dedicated use of the appropriation. The appropriation for these grants expires on June 30, 2011. It is imperative that Scott County utilize the appropriation within that time frame. The basis of Scott County's request is to, "...more effectively use these new resources..." by preparing master plans for two parks and several regional trails so that they are eligible for future capital grants.

CONCLUSION

Scott County's request to change how it spends its share of the Fiscal Year 2010 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation is consistent with the constitutionally dedicated use of the appropriation and can be accomplished within the timeframe of the appropriation. In order to implement the change, the Metropolitan Council must amend its 2010 Unified Capital Improvement Program and execute applicable grant agreement documents.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council approve the changes to Scott County grants described below as an amendment to the 2010 Unified Capital Improvement Program and authorize Council staff to execute appropriate grant documents.

- Grant: SG-2009-033, \$96,000
Purpose: Cedar Lake Farm Development, Phase 1
Change: That this grant be canceled and the funding reallocated to the trail and park system planning projects described in grants SG-2009-34 and SG2009-036 below.

- Grant: SG-2009-034, \$25,000
Purpose: Prepare Scott County Regional Trail Master Plan
Change: Modify grant project description to update the Scott Regional Trail Master Plan and complete a master plan for the Spring Lake Regional Trail. Increase grant allocation to \$56,000.

- Grant: SG-2009-036, \$75,000
Purpose: Cedar Lake Farm Development Master Plan
Change: Modify grant to fund a park system plan and development master plans for Cedar Lake Farm and Doyle-Kennefick regional parks. Increase grant allocation to \$140,000.

Attachment 1: Letter from Mark Themig, Scott County



**SCOTT COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

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December 18, 2009

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

Subject: Request for FY2010 Parks and Trails Fund Appropriation

Dear Arne,

I am writing on behalf of the Scott County Board of Commissioners to request that the Metropolitan Council consider changes to our FY2010 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation.

The timeline for identifying projects to be funded with the FY2010 Parks and Trails Legacy funds was relatively short due to the 2009 Legislative process. After reviewing priorities with the Scott County Parks Advisory Commission and County Board, we believe that we can more effectively use these new resources to make better legacy investments if we take a different approach that focuses on the following projects:

- A park system plan that includes development master plans for both Cedar Lake Farm and Doyle-Kennefick regional parks.
- Master plans for select regional trails in northern Scott County.

Since master plans are required for most of the existing and new funding opportunities, completing the development master plans will make these for these regional facilities eligible for funding.

As a result, on November 10, 2009 the Scott County Board of Commissioners requested that the Metropolitan Council consider the following amendments to our FY2010 Parks and Trails Fund Appropriation:

Grant: SG2009-033, \$96,000
Purpose: Cedar Lake Farm Development, Phase 1
Requested Change: Scott County is requesting that this grant be canceled and the funding reallocated to the trail and park system planning projects described in grants SG2009-34 and SG2009-036 below.

Grant: SG2009-034, \$25,000
Purpose: Prepare Scott County Regional Trail Master Plan
Requested Change: Modify grant project description to update the Scott Regional Trail Master Plan and complete a master plan for the Spring Lake Regional Trail. Increase grant allocation to \$56,000.

After reviewing the initial request and available resources, we do not believe that we can complete a county-wide regional trail master plan within the allocated

timeframe and available resources. Therefore, this request focuses regional trail master planning activities to the northern, primarily urban half of Scott County, and provides additional financial resources needed to complete the planning effort.

Specifically, Scott County needs to update the Scott Regional Trail Master Plan in order to study the proposed alignments through the now urbanized Shakopee area. In addition, we would like to master plan the Spring Lake Regional Trail to begin applying some of the rural trail policies we developed in other planning efforts in 2009. Finally, if funds and resources permit, we hope to research and potentially master plan the three new regional trail segments in the northern part of Scott County that we are requesting consideration for in the park policy plan update that is underway. We understand that no official work can begin on those segments until the policy plan update is complete.

Grant: SG2009-036, \$75,000
Purpose: Cedar Lake Farm Development Master Plan
Requested Change: Modify grant to fund a park system plan and development master plans for Cedar Lake Farm and Doyle-Kennefick regional parks. Increase grant allocation to \$140,000.

We initially planned to only complete a development master plan for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park. However, after further consideration, we feel that we should undertake a high-level park system planning process first, and use this effort to launch development master plans for both Cedar Lake Farm and Doyle-Kennefick.

Scott County completed a major parks and trails planning effort for its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update. The park system plan will use the 2030 Plan as a foundation and build on it by making more detailed programmatic decisions for each of Scott County's parks, including long-term plans and opportunities for Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve and Cleary Lake Regional Park, both owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District.

From the park system planning process, we would continue more detailed development master plans for both Doyle-Kennefick and Cedar Lake Farm.

Grant: SG2009-035, \$50,000
Purpose: Blakeley Bluff's Acquisition Master Plan
Requested Change: None. Project will proceed as planned.

With these requested changes, our overall funding remains the same for the FY2010 Parks and Trails Fund appropriations at \$246,000. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at 952-496-8783 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Mark Themig
Program Manager