

**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-xxx) 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.

<b>Table 1: Dakota County's Metro Regional Parks CIP Reimbursement Consideration Request</b>				
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Federal Grant</b>	<b>Dakota County Funds proposed for reimbursement from Metro Regional Parks CIP</b>	<b>Project timeline</b>	<b>Other Conditions or Comments</b>
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	
<b>TOTAL ALL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,709,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,687,000</b>		

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.

**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  
14955 Galaxie Avenue  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

952-891-7000  
Fax 952-891-7031  
[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us)

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

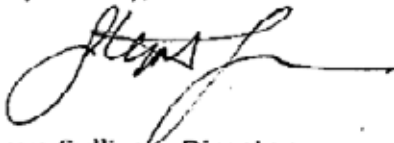
Furthermore, DC seeks consideration for eligibility for future reimbursement of County funds for:

**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**

<b>Park Agency Name</b>	<b>Outstanding amount per project for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration</b>	<b>Project Description</b> (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project)	<b>Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start</b>
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
	<b>\$ 3,460,361</b>	<b>Carver County Total</b>	
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
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



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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
	<b>\$ 8,641,217</b>	<b>Dakota County Total</b>	
Mpls. Park & Rec. Bd.	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	North Mississippi RP development at boat launch area when sufficient interest earnings are provided	2009
Ramsey County	<b>\$ 0</b>	Battle Creek Regional Park - Acquisition parcel No. 6 reimbursement paid off with \$35,000 in 2010-11 Parks CIP reimbursement grant	2007

<b>Park Agency Name</b>	<b>Outstanding amount per project for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration</b>	<b>Project Description (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project)</b>	<b>Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start</b>
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
	<b>\$ 1,089,000</b>	<b>City of St. Paul Total</b>	
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
	<b>\$ 6,489,859</b>	<b>Scott County Total</b>	
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
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

<b>Park Agency Name</b>	<b>Outstanding amount per project for Metro Parks CIP reimbursement consideration</b>	<b>Project Description (Includes park or trail name, amount of land acquired or a description of development/rehabilitation project)</b>	<b>Year Met Council authorized reimbursement consideration prior to project start</b>
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
	<b>\$ 17,230,313</b>	<b>Three Rivers Park District Total</b>	
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
	<b>\$ 4,726,532</b>	<b>Washington County Total</b>	
	<b>\$ 41,937,282</b>	<b>Grand Total as of August 23, 2010</b>	