

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on December 4, 2025

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition - Phase VII

Project Manager: Jessica Lee

Affiliation: Metropolitan Council

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Website: <https://metro council.org/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e and M.L. 2024, Chp. 83 Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Amount: \$2,250,000

Amount Spent: \$2,250,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The Metropolitan Council worked with Washington County and Three Rivers Park District to acquire 365 acres of land for the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System. These acquisitions will help provide nature-based recreation while protecting natural resources including mixed forests, prairie, wetlands, rivers, creeks, and lakes.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Metropolitan Council works with the ten Regional Park Implementing Agencies to offer a natural resources-based Regional Parks and Trails System that is nationally renowned for its beauty, size, and variety of features. The Regional Parks and Trails System protects significant green space and wildlife habitat, particularly along lakes, rivers, and streams. The Met Council's Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund provides first come, first served funding for acquisitions of land that has been included in an approved regional park or trail's long-range plan. The Met Council works with the agencies to use ENRTF to acquire land from willing sellers that contains high natural resources value or restoration potential. This ENRTF project provided \$2.25 million in funding for the acquisition program and was matched with \$2.75 million in Met Council and agency funds for a total of \$5 million. With this funding, Three Rivers Park District and Washington County acquired properties totaling 365 acres for the regional parks and trails system. Trail parcels were acquired for the Rush

Creek Regional Trail, the Diamond Lake Regional Trail, and the West Mississippi River Regional Trail. All of these trail parcels will help provide a natural resources and habitat corridor along waterways and will protect critical shoreline as well as provide recreational opportunities. The McCartney parcel for the Rush Creek Regional Trail will protect wooded land along Rush Creek. The Boggs parcel for the Diamond Lake Regional Trail will protect a third of a mile of French Lake shoreline. The Rife parcel for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail will protect over 200 feet of Mississippi River shoreline. Several park parcels were acquired for the Big Marine Park Reserve totaling 330 acres. This land is mostly undeveloped and contains a mix of lakes, wetlands, ponds, hardwoods and prairie that will now be protected.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Regional Park Implementing Agencies are responsible for dissemination efforts. Big Marine Park Reserve has existing ENRTF signage from previous projects and will add new signs if appropriate. The new parcels acquired for Big Marine are not yet open to the public so dissemination efforts have not yet occurred. The parcels acquired for regional trails will not be open until additional parcels are acquired and the trails are completed. Once the trails are open, ENRTF signs will be placed if they aren't already at the trailheads, and dissemination efforts will be made for public awareness of the new trail segments.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: December 5, 2025

ID Number: 2021-049

Staff Lead: Tiffany Schaufler

Project Title: Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition - Phase VII

Project Budget: \$2,250,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Jessica Lee

Organization: Metropolitan Council

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Web Address: <https://metro council.org/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: December 4, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: December 4, 2025

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e and M.L. 2024, Chp. 83 Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Language: \$2,250,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to acquire land within the approved park boundaries of the metropolitan regional park system. This appropriation must be matched by an equal amount from a combination of Metropolitan Council and local agency funds. and (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects is extended to June 30, 2025: (17) Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 6, section 2, subdivision 9, paragraph (e), Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition - Phase VII;

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: Acquire properties with high-quality natural resources or natural resources restoration potential for the metropolitan Regional Parks System. This project will be matched over 100% with Council and local Agency funds.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

The Metropolitan Regional Park System offers large-scale, natural-resource based recreation opportunities to all Minnesotans. This project proposes to acquire park and trail inholdings that have a broad range of ecological significance, from native prairies, wetlands, forests, and shoreline protection, to an urban property along the Mississippi River. Many of these properties are at risk of being developed if they are not acquired for the Regional Parks System. Most of the trail inholdings are along water bodies and will provide shoreline protection. Acquiring these lands will contribute to the equitable use of the Regional Parks System by increasing access and protecting properties for public use in Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, and Washington Counties in perpetuity.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

The Metropolitan Regional Parks System is owned and operated by the ten Regional Parks Implementing Agencies (Agencies) identified in Minnesota Statutes, section 473.351. Working with the Agencies, the Council has compiled a list of 34 properties that may potentially be acquired between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2024. The parcels range in size from less than an acre to 110 acres. Some of these properties are under active negotiation; for others, the sellers have expressed an interest in selling to the Agency or are aware of the Agency's interest. Because the timing is uncertain as to when properties will be available from willing sellers, this proposal builds a funding pool which allows Agencies to capitalize on opportunities as they arise.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

This project will acquire lands for the Regional Park System that are already included in locally-elected board-approved park or trail master plans, but are not currently owned by the Agencies. Acquiring these lands will provide public access to these natural resource-based, high-quality recreational opportunities, while protecting and restoring prairies, forests, wetlands, and shoreline.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Metro

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Acquire properties for the Regional Park System

Activity Budget: \$2,250,000

Activity Description:

The Agencies individually negotiate each acquisition. After they have obtained a signed purchase agreement, a certified appraisal, and a resolution of support from their elected boards, the Agencies submit a grant request to the Metropolitan Council. Agencies may close on the properties after the Council has approved the acquisition grant request. The Council serves as the fiscal agent and awards grants to the Agencies through its Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) program. The PAOF program has three major funding sources: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF), Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (Legacy), and matching dollars. The Council matches every \$3 in ENRTF and Legacy funds with \$2 in Council funds. Agencies must provide at least 25% of acquisition costs from non-state funds. The Council is requesting \$2,250,000 from the ENRTF. These funds will be matched with \$1,500,000 in Council funds, and an additional \$1,250,000 million in Agency funds, for a total project budget of \$5 million.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
PAOF application is open continuously as long as funds remain available	June 30, 2024
Agencies submit PAOF applications as parcels become available, if funds remain	June 30, 2024
Met Council staff present PAOF applications to the Met Council for approval	June 30, 2024
Agencies acquire properties once a grant agreement is executed for the project	June 30, 2024
Final reporting requirements for the Agencies and the Council are met	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Patty Freeman	Scott County	General Manager, Scott County Parks and Trails	Yes
Al Singer	Dakota County	Land Conservation Manager	Yes
Kelly Grissman	Three Rivers Park District	Director of Planning	Yes
Sharon Price	Washington County	Acquisition Manager	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

The Regional Park Implementing Agencies will install an ENRTF sign at all properties acquired once the land becomes open to the public. In addition, the Regional Park Implementing Agencies will produce a news release of the acquisition when appropriate and will acknowledge the ENRTF as required. The Metropolitan Council acknowledges the ENRTF on its website at <https://metro council.org/Parks/Grants-Funding/Park-Acquisition-Opportunity-Fund-Grants.aspx> and includes the ENRTF logo and a link to the ENRTF website.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

This project will provide funding for an existing program managed by the Metropolitan Council, the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) program. As properties become available for purchase, Agencies will apply to the PAOF program to receive funding. These applications are presented to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, then the Council's Community Development Committee, and then receive final approval from the Council. After the project has been approved, the Agency enters into a grant agreement with the Council. Council staff then works with the Agency throughout the acquisition process, until final reimbursement and reporting is submitted.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Metropolitan Regional Park System Acquisition	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 07b	\$1,500,000
Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition - Phase IV	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b	\$1,000,000
Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$1,500,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
	Trail Easement Acquisition	Parcels: 4 Miles: 1						\$500,000	\$500,000	-
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 240 Parcels: 6						\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	-
							Sub Total	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										

							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	-

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
Cash	Metropolitan Council	The Metropolitan Council matches every \$3 dollars in ENRTF with \$2 in council funds. Council funds will be used for ancillary costs (such as appraisals and legal fees) as well as stewardship and restoration costs. Council funds may also be used toward the purchase of parcels. The Council funds all administrative support for the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund program through it's own budgeting process (no ENRTF/match funds are used for administrative costs).	Secured	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	-
Cash	Regional Park Implementing Agencies	The Agencies must provide at least 25% of the total acquisition project cost. Agency funds will be used for ancillary costs (such as appraisals and legal fees) as well as stewardship and restoration costs. Agency funds may also be used toward the purchase of parcels.	Secured	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000	-
			Funds Total	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Baker-Carver Regional Trail #1	Hennepin	Important trail segment; protect woodlands.	Easement - Other	5	0.15	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Baker-Carver Regional Trail #2	Hennepin	Wetlands and woodlands; Six Mile Creek runs through northern portion.	Easement - Other	1	0.01	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Baker-Carver Regional Trail #3	Hennepin	Wetlands protection; Six Mile Creek runs through northern portion.	Easement - Other	3	0.01	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #1	Washington	Parcel contains Aspen-Oak woodlands and wet prairies, with a diverse array of native grasses, and wildflowers, as well as red, white, and burr oaks.	Fee Title	39.47	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #10	Washington	Preservation of Mesic Oak Forest	Fee Title	39.34	-	-	Private	Washington County	Purchased
Big Marine Park Reserve #11	Washington	Preservation of Mesic Oak Forest	Fee Title	39.17	-	-	Private	Washington County	Purchased
Big Marine Park Reserve #12	Washington	Preservation of Mesic Oak Forest and Alder Swamp	Fee Title	39.53	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #13	Washington	2235 feet of Mud Lake shoreline; Preservation of Maple Basswood Forest, Alder Swamp and Emergent Marsh	Fee Title	45.09	0.4	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #14	Washington	943 feet of Mud Lake shoreline; wetland restoration	Fee Title	35.86	0.2	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #15	Washington	Forest restoration and expansion	Fee Title	40.03	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #16	Washington	Wetland restoration and forest restoration and expansion	Fee Title	19.62	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #17	Washington	2055 feet of Turtle Lake shoreline; wetland and forest restoration	Fee Title	23.64	0.4	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered

Big Marine Park Reserve #18	Washington	992 feet of Turtle Lake shoreline; wetland and prairie restoration	Fee Title	34.79	0.2	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #19	Washington	1819 feet of Turtle Lake shoreline; 340 feet of Mudd Lake shoreline; forest restoration and expansion	Fee Title	15.27	0.4	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #2	Washington	Parcel contains Aspen-Oak woodlands and wet prairies, with a diverse array of native grasses, and wildflowers, as well as red, white, and burr oaks.	Fee Title	39.54	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #20	Washington	Prairie restoration potential	Fee Title	38.54	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #21	Washington	1588 feet of Turtle Lake shoreline; prairie restoration potential	Fee Title	28.6	0.3	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #3	Washington	This parcel has a combination of mixed hardwood and pine including oak, maple, basswood, and pine.	Fee Title	46.06	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #4	Washington	This parcel is mostly cultivated which will be restored to native. It does contain a small portion of woodlands.	Fee Title	79.74	-	-	Private	Washington County	Purchased
Big Marine Park Reserve #5	Washington	Prairie and wetland restoration potential	Fee Title	39.57	-	-	Private	Washington County	Purchased
Big Marine Park Reserve #6	Washington	Forest restoration potential	Fee Title	39.59	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #7	Washington	Preservation of Mesic Oak Forest and savanna restoration	Fee Title	78.96	-	-	Private	Washington County	Purchased
Big Marine Park Reserve #8	Washington	1600 feet of Mud Lake shoreline; Forest restoration and expansion	Fee Title	25.67	0.3	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Big Marine Park Reserve #9	Washington	Preservation of Mesic Oak Forest and rich fen and wetland restoration	Fee Title	78.69	-	-	Private	Washington County	Purchased
Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park #1	Scott	Minnesota River Floodplain; Silver Maple Floodplain Forest. Site part of many contiguous floodplain parcels planned for protection.	Fee Title	11.87	-	-	Private	Scott County	No Longer Being Considered
Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park #2	Scott	Minnesota River Bluff; Maple Basswood Forest protection.	Fee Title	15	-	-	Private	Scott County	No Longer Being Considered

Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park #3	Scott	Minnesota River Bluff; Maple Basswood and Oak Forest protection.	Fee Title	40.89	-	-	Private	Scott County	No Longer Being Considered
Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park #4	Scott	Minnesota River Floodplain and Uplands; Old field/pasture and cultivated areas have restoration potential.	Fee Title	96	0.4	-	Private	Scott County	No Longer Being Considered
Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park #5	Scott	Minnesota River bluff and ravines. Oak forest and Maple Basswood forest protection.	Fee Title	40	-	-	Private	Scott County	No Longer Being Considered
Carver Park Reserve	Carver	Agriculture land with restoration potential. Southern boundary is Parley Lake.	Fee Title	7	0.14	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Crow River Regional Trail #1	Hennepin	Wetlands and woodlands. Northern portion abuts Crow River.	Fee Title	35	0.31	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Crow River Regional Trail #2	Hennepin	Farmland with restoration potential. Partially wooded. Northern portion abuts Crow River.	Fee Title	0.02	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve #1	Hennepin	Agriculture land with restoration potential. Partially wooded. Northern portion abuts Crow River.	Fee Title	60	0.44	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve #2	Hennepin	Agriculture lands with restoration potential. Partially wooded. Northern portion abuts Crow River.	Fee Title	65	0.25	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve #3	Hennepin	Agriculture lands with restoration potential. Partially wooded. Northern portion abuts Crow River.	Fee Title	9.57	0.28	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve #4	Hennepin	Agriculture lands with restoration potential.	Fee Title	20.88	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Diamond Lake Regional Trail	Hennepin	23 acres of undeveloped land that will be restored to native habitat and will help protect French Lake	Fee Title	23	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Purchased
Gale Woods Farm	Hennepin	Woodlands and wetlands protection.	Fee Title	27.87	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Lake Byllesby Regional Park	Dakota	On the Cannon River, with oxbows and river banks, floodplain forest, and cultivated fields that will be restored.	Fee Title	110	1	-	Private	Dakota County	No Longer Being Considered

Lake Rebecca Park Reserve	Hennepin	Woodlands; northern portion abuts Crow River.	Fee Title	15.14	0.16	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Murphy Hanrehan Park Reserve	Scott	Agriculture lands with restoration potential. Eastern boundary is the Credit River.	Fee Title	51	0.3	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District or Scott County	No Longer Being Considered
North Creek Greenway Regional Trail	Dakota	20 acres of undeveloped land including a diverse mix of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees, as well as 2,180 feet of Vermillion River shoreline.	Fee Title	20	0.4	-	Private	Dakota County	No Longer Being Considered
Pine Point Regional Park	Washington	This parcel contains upland oak variety and cultivated lands, together used by a variety of wildlife such as deer, pheasant, grouse, etc. The cultivated land will be restored to native oak savanna.	Fee Title	48.52	-	-	Private	Washington County	No Longer Being Considered
Rush Creek Regional Trail #10	Hennepin	Woodlands and wetlands with Rush Creek.	Fee Title	30	0.05	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Rush Creek Regional Trail #1	Hennepin	Woodlands and wetlands, along Rush Creek.	Fee Title	3	0.15	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Rush Creek Regional Trail #2	Hennepin	Woodlands and wetlands; Rush Creek.	Fee Title	5	0.15	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Rush Creek Regional Trail #3	Hennepin	Rush Creek, woodlands, wetlands.	Fee Title	30	0.5	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Rush Creek Regional Trail #4	Hennepin	Agriculture lands with restoration potential.	Fee Title	4	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Rush Creek Regional Trail #5	Hennepin	Agriculture lands with restoration potential.	Fee Title	5	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Rush Creek Regional Trail #6	Hennepin	Rush Creek, woodlands, wetlands.	Fee Title	12	0.35	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
Rush Creek Regional Trail #7	Hennepin	Rush Creek, woodlands and wetlands.	Fee Title	8	0.31	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Purchased
Rush Creek Regional Trail #8	Hennepin	Agriculture lands for restoration; partly wooded.	Fee Title	5	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered

Rush Creek Regional Trail #9	Hennepin	Partially wooded; agriculture lands for restoration.	Fee Title	1	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	No Longer Being Considered
West Mississippi River Regional Trail	Hennepin	The property is directly on the Mississippi River, undeveloped, and a mix of open field/grasslands, floodplain forest (Silver Maple subtype), deciduous woodlands, and Mississippi River backwaters. The property overlooks Cloquet Island and West Mississippi River Regional Park (across the River) and is within a Hennepin County Natural Resources Corridor. Shoreline feet ~240'	Fee Title	5.46	-	-	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Purchased
				-	-	-			
Totals				1,680.99	7.56	-			

Fee Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The Regional Park Implementing Agencies have identified parcels that are within their approved park or trail boundaries and have high natural resource value or restoration potential. These inholdings are currently in private ownership but negotiations have begun in hopes of the Agencies acquiring these properties to protect or restore their natural resources and provide access to the public. The ten Agencies have identified all properties that meet this criteria and have potential to be acquired within the next three years. Because all of the parcels on this list are crucial to completing the Regional Park System and they all have natural resources value, parcels will be funded as they become available, on a first-come-first-served basis.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

Each parcel on this list has been included in a Regional Park or Trail Master Plan. Each Regional Park or Trail has its own master plan with a master plan boundary that identifies all future acquisitions. These master plans are developed by the Agencies, and the Agency Boards have approved them. In addition, these master plans have been approved by the Metropolitan Council upon recommendation from the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council's Community Development Committee. Each master plan should be available on the corresponding Agency's website.

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

The Agencies will prepare their own restoration and management plan for each parcel acquired. These plans will identify activities and timelines for natural resource restoration work if needed. They will also identify the long-term maintenance and management needs, the time frame for those needs, and the sources of funding to meet those needs. The Agencies will keep these on file for reference, and Council staff will also keep them in their LCCMR appropriation files.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

These parcels will be purchased and held by the Agencies. They are all required to obtain county or park board approval before purchase.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Not applicable

Easement (Other) Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The Regional Park Implementing Agencies have identified parcels that are within their approved park or trail boundaries and have high natural resource value or restoration potential. These inholdings are currently in private ownership but negotiations have begun in hopes of the Agencies acquiring these properties to protect or restore their natural resources and provide access to the public. The ten Agencies have identified all properties that meet this criteria that have potential to be acquired in the next three years. All of the parcels on this list are crucial to completing the Regional Park System. Parcels will be funded as they become available, on a first-come-first-served basis.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

Each parcel on this list has been included in a Regional Park or Trail Master Plan. Each Regional Park or Trail has its own master plan with a master plan boundary that identifies all future acquisitions. These master plans are developed by the Agencies, and the locally-elected Agency Boards have approved them. In addition, these master plans have been approved by the Metropolitan Council upon recommendation from the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council's Community Development Committee. Each master plan should be available on the corresponding Agency's website.

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

The Agencies will prepare their own restoration and management plan for each parcel acquired. These plans will identify activities and timelines for natural resource restoration work if needed. They will also identify the long-term maintenance and management needs, the time frame for those needs, and the sources of funding to meet those needs. The Agencies will keep these plans on file for reference, and Council staff will also keep them in their LCCMR appropriation files.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

These parcels will be purchased and held by the Agencies. They are all required to obtain county or park board approval before purchase.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Not applicable

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All restoration activities will be completed on lands that are in permanent ownership or that are protected by a permanent conservation/trail easement.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

The Agencies will prepare their own restoration and management plan for each parcel acquired. These plans will identify activities and timelines for natural resource restoration work if needed. They will also identify the long-term maintenance and management needs, the time frame for those needs, and the sources of funding to meet those needs. The Agencies will keep these on file for reference, and Council staff will also keep them in their LCCMR appropriation files. Long-term implementation plans will be included in the Agencies' CIPs.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

The Agencies will be required to utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources guidelines to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator habitat. This will be a required component of the Restoration and Management Plan that they submit to Council staff.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

The long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcels being restored are carefully considered and included in the individual park or trail master plans. These costs are included in the Agencies' 5 or 10-year CIPs, which identify future financial needs and funding sources for those needs.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

Agencies will be required to consider contracting with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities. This will be a requirement in the Restoration and Management Plan that the Agencies will submit to Council staff. Agencies will provide evidence or a statement of consideration given.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Agencies will be responsible for conducting evaluations both initially after activity completion and three years later as a follow-up. Council staff may also conduct a site visit after the initial activity completion to identify whether goals and outcomes have been met.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [2b48b714-c24.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

The PDF contains maps of each parcel in the proposal. When the location allows, maps may contain multiple parcels to reduce the total length....

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Background Check	485febd0-14c.pdf
Rife Map 1	f61f4340-c08.pdf
Rife Map 2	114d23d2-df1.pdf
Diamond Lake map	dff31037-02e.pdf
North Creek Greenway	c798fe4e-b72.pdf
Map of all acquired parcels	479324d3-05f.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Changes were made to the budget to reflect the recommended funding, and to the anticipated number of acquired parcels as a result.

Changes were made to the milestones. Milestones aren't specific because Agencies only work with willing sellers and it's hard to predict when parcels will become available. Applications will be accepted from the Agencies as long as funding remains- a couple of large acquisitions could use up the funding in a short time; conversely there could be a dozen smaller acquisitions over the course of the 3-year appropriation. There are numerous acquisitions in the works but they are all dependent on the landowners timeline. The application is always available so there is no annual RFP, but Council staff do regularly communicate the PAOF balances to the Agencies.

2/23/2022 update- Added Big Marine Park Reserve parcels #5 through #21.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative • Other • Attachments • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	Added parcel for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail. Property is right on the Mississippi River and undeveloped. Three Rivers Park District has a signed purchase agreement for the property.	June 3, 2024	Yes	June 4, 2024
2	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024 New Completion Date: 06/30/2025; Governor Approved on 04/15/2024	Washington County has a signed option agreement to purchase approximately 700 acres from Kelley Land and Cattle over the next 3 years. The assessed value of this land totals \$8.5 million. This purchase will use \$1.7 million of the Council's ENRTF funding in winter of 2024, and then \$1.7 million in summer of 2024, using up the remaining appropriation amount by the end of fiscal 2025 if not sooner.	November 8, 2023	Yes	June 21, 2024
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other • Attachments • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	Two acquisition opportunities for the regional parks and trails system have come up that are not on the original parcel list. Diamond Lake Regional Trail for Three Rivers Park District and North Creek Greenway Regional Trail for Dakota County. Both are undeveloped properties that have natural resources value and will help protect Minnesota's waters.	September 5, 2024	Yes	September 12, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: November 24, 2025

Date Approved: November 24, 2025

Overall Update

The Met Council, in partnership with Three Rivers Park District and Washington County, acquired six parcels totaling 376 acres for the regional parks and trails system. Trail parcels were acquired for the Rush Creek Regional Trail, the Diamond Lake Regional Trail, and the West Mississippi River Regional Trail. All of these trail parcels will help provide a natural resources and habitat corridor along waterways and will protect critical shoreline as well as provide recreational opportunities. Park parcels were acquired for Big Marine Park Reserve totaling nearly 330 acres and include many wetlands along with undisturbed natural areas that will now be protected. The most recent 80-acre acquisition for Big Marine was acquired since the last status update and used the remaining funds of this appropriation along with some of the Met Council's 2024 appropriation.

Activity 1

The Met Council and Regional Park Implementing Agencies were successful in acquiring six properties for the regional parks and trails system. Council staff presented individual funding requests to the Met Council, received approval for each project, and set up grant agreements with the agencies to manage to projects. The agencies submitted final reports and reimbursement requests for each acquisition, Council staff reviewed them and processed final payment, and all grants have been completed.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Three Rivers Park District will complete dissemination information at a future date when the trails are constructed. They are currently working on acquiring the land needed before constructing each segment of the trails. Once constructed there will be a news release and an ENRTF sign will be placed at an appropriate place for each trail. Washington County has acknowledged the funding opportunities in news releases and also publicized board materials. They will place additional ENRTF signs at the Big Marine Park Reserve where appropriate.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2025

Date Submitted: November 24, 2025

Date Approved: November 24, 2025

Overall Update

LCCMR staff waived the June 1, 2025, reporting status update because the appropriation ends June 30, 2025, and the reporting final status update is due August 14, 2025

Activity 1

LCCMR staff waived the June 1, 2025, reporting status update because the appropriation ends June 30, 2025, and the reporting final status update is due August 14, 2025

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

LCCMR staff waived the June 1, 2025, reporting status update because the appropriation ends June 30, 2025, and the reporting final status update is due August 14, 2025

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2024

Date Submitted: November 13, 2024

Date Approved: December 13, 2024

Overall Update

In June of 2024, the Met Council approved a grant for Three Rivers Park District to acquire a 5-acre parcel for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail. In November of 2024, the Council will act on a proposal to acquire 23 acres for the Diamond Lake Regional Trail for Three Rivers. After these acquisitions, about \$400,000 will remain from this appropriation. There are currently four potential acquisitions with Washington County, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Scott County. Met Council staff is working actively with these partners and will be potentially bringing these requests to the Council in early 2025. Any one of these will use the remaining funds from this appropriation.

Activity 1

To date, five parcels have been acquired with this project. One more acquisition is anticipated in early 2025 that will use the remaining funding. There are currently multiple projects in the works but it is unknown which will be submitted first to the Council for consideration.

Dissemination

All of the parcels that have been acquired so far are not yet open to the public, so signs have not yet been placed. Most of them have been for Regional Trails, and more land is still required before trail construction can begin. The Big Marine parcels will be open to the public once more continuous park land has been acquired between these parcels and the existing park land. Once that happens, signs will be placed.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2024

Date Submitted: June 3, 2024

Date Approved: June 4, 2024

Overall Update

No updates since June 2024 update

Activity 1

No updates since June 2024 update

Dissemination

No updates since June 2024 update

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2024

Date Submitted: June 3, 2024

Date Approved: June 4, 2024

Overall Update

The Council, in partnership with the regional park implementing agencies, is on track to spend the remaining balance of the appropriation by the end of 2024. So far in 2024, Three Rivers Park District acquired a 7-acre parcel of undeveloped wooded land along Rush Creek for the Rush Creek Regional Trail and Washington County acquired 248 acres of undeveloped high quality natural resources land for the Big Marine Park Reserve. The Big Marine purchase was phase one of three. The next phase will happen in the first half of FY2025 and will spend any remaining balance of this appropriation. Three Rivers Park District also has requested we amend our work plan to include a parcel on the Mississippi River for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail. If approved, this parcel will be purchased in June or July of 2024. After these 4 purchases, the balance of this appropriation will be spent.

Activity 1

Both the Rush Creek Regional Trail and Big Marine Park Reserve properties were approved for acquisition by the Council at the end of March 2024. Three Rivers Park District and Washington County have closed on these properties and will be submitting expenses and reports in the coming months. These purchases were both matched with local and regional dollars and more than half of the appropriation has been spent. There are plans to spend the remaining balance by the end of 2024.

Dissemination

Three Rivers Park District is in the processing of acquiring land for the Rush Creek Regional Trail. The eastern part of the trail is developed and open. They are still acquiring property for the western part of the trail. The parcel funded with this appropriation will be developed as soon as more property has been acquired for the segment of trail immediately west of Elm Creek Park Reserve, and at that time dissemination efforts will be made, including ENRTF signage and likely a press release of the newly opened trail. Washington County is acquiring a substantial land purchase for Big Marine Park Reserve. The acquisition funded with this appropriation is just phase one of three. The land being acquired is not yet open to the public and will be managed for natural resources until it opens and is signed for the public. At that time, ENRTF acknowledgements will be made. There have been some news releases regarding the purchase of phase one as it is a very exciting opportunity for both the County and the regional parks system.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2023

Date Submitted: November 8, 2023

Date Approved: November 21, 2023

Overall Update

Agencies are working hard with willing sellers to acquire parcels for the Regional Parks and Trails System. All of the parcels in active negotiations are inholdings in a regional park or trail long-range plans. Washington County is in the final stages of acquiring 700 acres for Big Marine Park Reserve (phased over 3 years), Ramsey County is finalizing a purchase for Battle Creek Regional Park, and Three Rivers Park District is finalizing a purchase for Rush Creek Regional Trail. These opportunities should use up the remaining funding from this appropriation, but because of the complexities and cost of the Big Marine purchase, we need an extra year to complete the purchase. The Council limits each agency to \$1.7M in ENRTF each fiscal year, therefore necessitating the 3-phase approach for Big Marine as the land for that purchase is assessed at \$8.5 million. The final purchase agreement for that purchase will be based on appraised values, but that amount is not public yet. There is however a signed option agreement that lays out the 3-phase acquisition approach beginning this current fiscal year.

Activity 1

Agencies have been in negotiations with willing sellers on several parcels. After a market slow-down because of the pandemic, things are rapidly picking up. Washington County now has a signed option agreement to purchase 700 acres from Kelley Land and Cattle. This purchase will be phased over 3 years to accommodate the Council's per-fiscal-year limits and the County's local match requirements. Phase 1 will use \$1.7 million in ENRTF and will occur in the next couple of months, which will close out the Council's smaller appropriation and use part of this appropriation. Phase 2 will occur early in FY2025, and will use most of the remaining balance of this appropriation. Three Rivers Park District is finalizing a purchase agreement that will likely use approximately \$800,000 in ENRTF for Rush Creek Regional Trail. Ramsey County is finalizing a purchase agreement for a small parcel for Battle Creek Regional Park for approximately \$150,000. These purchases in total will use the remainder of this appropriation. If for some reason one of these purchases doesn't go through, Carver County is also actively working on three different acquisitions that we anticipate will be submitted by the end of 2024.

Dissemination

Dissemination efforts will be conducted once the parcels are acquired.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: June 1, 2023

Date Approved: June 26, 2023

Overall Update

No further updates since the April 17, 2023 update. The Council is actively working on expending the 2020 appropriation and will then begin using funding from this appropriation. There is a big acquisition anticipated for Big Marine Park Reserve that should happen within the next year that will use the majority of this funding, but there is not yet a purchase agreement for that project.

Activity 1

No further updates since the April 17, 2023 update. The Council is actively working on expending the 2020 appropriation and will then begin using funding from this appropriation.

Dissemination

There have been no expenditures to-date, so there are no dissemination updates yet.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: December 1, 2022

Date Approved: December 16, 2022

Overall Update

We are currently sending down our ML2020 appropriation, and have not spent against this appropriation yet. However, we do have a multi-million dollar project in the works that will be accomplished through phases beginning in 2023.

Activity 1

We are currently in the planning stages of acquiring a several million dollar acquisition for Washington County that is expected to use much of this appropriation in 2023. We have successfully closed on a few other properties using our 2020 appropriation.

Dissemination

Dissemination efforts will be made once properties are acquired.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: April 28, 2022

Date Approved: May 23, 2022

Overall Update

The Regional Parks Implementing Agencies are continuing to negotiate with landowners on several different parcels. The Met Council's PAOF program is a first-come, first-served program, so parcels are approved in the order they are requested. On April 27, 2022, the Council approved a grant for 79-acre purchase for Big Marine Park Reserve. Washington County will be acquiring this parcel in the spring or early summer of 2022, and it will be funded with the 2020 appropriation. However, Washington County is also working on a potentially large acquisition for Big Marine Park Reserve, that will likely be requested through multiple parcel purchases over the course of the next two years, using funding from both of the Council's open ENRTF appropriations. Dakota County is also in the final negotiation phase for several parcels on the approved parcel list that may use both appropriations.

Activity 1

The Regional Parks Implementing Agencies continue to negotiate with landowners on many of the parcels on the proposed parcel list. Because of the pandemic, acquisition activity slowed down significantly in 2020 and 2021, but it is now starting to pick up again. The first parcel to be purchased with ENRTF is the 79-acre Kelley property for Big Marine Park Reserve, which was approved by the Met Council on April 27, 2022. Washington County is expected to close on this property in the next couple of months, and will close out their grant within a year. This purchase will use a significant portion of the Council's 2020 appropriation. As mentioned above, Washington County is also working on a very large acquisition for Big Marine that will span the next couple of years and is expected to use funds from both the 2020 and the 2021 appropriation. Dakota County is also working on several parcels that are expected to be submitted to the Met Council for approval by the end of 2022. These parcels may use this appropriation or the 2020 appropriation depending on timing.

Dissemination

Once properties are purchased for the Regional Parks, the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies will place ENRTF signs at the acquired parcels, and either the Agencies or the Met Council will issue news releases about the approval or purchase of the acquisitions.