

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2015 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 136-G**

Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition Phase 4

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**Category:** G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 2,170,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 years, July 2015 - June 2018

**Summary:**

Finance 45% of costs to acquire 374 acres of high quality natural resource lands for Regional Parks and Trails in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Regional Park System.

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, Washington

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Location of 6 regional parks and 3 regional trails and acreages of land in those parks and trails that could be acquired with Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition Phase 4 funding proposal

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____ %



## PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition—Phase 4

### I. REVISED PROJECT STATEMENT

\$2.17 million of ENRTF funds matched with \$2.65 million Metropolitan Council bonds/local government funds will acquire 374 acres of high quality natural resource lands for the Metropolitan Regional Park System.

Acquisition of these lands preserves open space for wildlife habitat and provides numerous outdoor recreational opportunities. The parcels include lake/river/stream shoreline, forests, and wetlands.

This proposal would be the fourth phase of ENRTF funding to help acquire 13,500 acres of high-quality natural resource lands as part of the Metropolitan Regional Park System. Acquisition protects these resources and helps meet the outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Region. Past ENRTF appropriations totaling \$7.54 million helped acquire 1,076 acres.

The Metropolitan Regional Park System encompasses over 55,000 acres in 59 regional parks and 36 regional trails. These parks and trails hosted an estimated 45.8 million visits in 2012. The regional parks and trails are owned and managed by ten regional park implementing agencies of which five are negotiating with land owners for parcels that could be acquired under this proposal—Anoka County Parks, Dakota County Parks, Scott County Parks, Three Rivers Park District and Washington County Parks.

### II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

#### Activity 1: Award grants to acquire 374 acres

**Budget: \$2,170,000**

Grants financed with ENRTF funds will finance 45% of total acquisition costs. Metropolitan Council bonds and regional park agency funds will finance the remaining 55% to acquire some of the parcels on the 2015 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List.

Criteria used to select these parcels are:

1. Parcel is within a regional park or trail master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council
2. Parcel contains high quality natural resources and has no habitable structures on it.
3. Regional park agency is currently in negotiations with the owner of these parcels.

The ENRTF funds will partially finance the purchase price of the parcel. Metropolitan Council bonds and regional park agency funds will finance the balance of purchase price plus transaction costs.

The acquisitions are in negotiation and therefore estimated costs for each parcel are confidential at this time. The total for all parcels is \$8.15 million. The Activity 1 table illustrates examples of the grants.

**Budget: \$2,170,000**

#### Activity 1: Award grants to acquire parcels listed below

Outcome		Completion Date
Acquire 110 acres Lake Byllesby Regional Park, Dakota County.	ENRTF \$292,500	Sept. 12, 2015
Acquire 50 acres Blakely Bluffs Park Reserve, Scott County.	ENRTF \$ 56,250	Nov. 20, 2015
Acquire 60 acres Rush Creek Regional Trail, Three Rivers Park District.	ENRTF \$342,000	Feb. 10, 2016



### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

The five regional park agencies that could acquire and manage the lands listed in this proposal are:

Regional Park Agency Contact	Regional Park Agency Name
Marty Walsh	Carver County Parks Dept.
Steve Sullivan	Dakota County Parks Dept.
Mark Themig	Scott County Parks Dept.
Jonathan Vlaming	Three Rivers Park District
John Elholm	Washington County Parks Dept.

The amount each agency receives is dependent on the amount needed for a particular grant and will be reported in future status reports in the Project Budget.

#### B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The Metropolitan Council's 2030 *Regional Parks Policy Plan* as amended in 2013 calls for acquiring 13,500 acres to meet the outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Region. Past ENRTF appropriations totaling \$7.82 million helped acquire 1,076 acres.

A 2014 ENRTF pending appropriation of \$1.5 million matched with \$1.83 million of non-State funds will be used to acquire 200 acres of the 574 acres listed in the 2015 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List. The estimated cost to purchase 200 acres is \$3.3 million. The estimated cost to purchase all parcels on the list is \$8.15 million. The proposed \$2.17 million of 2015 ENRTF funds matched with \$2.65 million of non-state funds is needed to acquire the remaining 374 acres.

Additional funding requests will be submitted to acquire and protect more high quality natural resource lands consistent with Metropolitan Council-approved regional park and trail master plans when those lands become available to purchase. Natural resource restoration activities are listed with estimated project and annual costs in each regional park and trail master plan. Other funding sources finance natural resource restoration activities including park agency funds and Parks and Trails Legacy funds .

#### C. Timeline Requirements

Timeline for this proposal is 3 years (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018) because regional park agencies cannot predict when acquisition negotiations will be completed and subsequently grants can be awarded.

**Project Title:** Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition--Phase 4

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> About 374 acres would be acquired in separate parcels under separate grants. ENRTF funds would finance a portion of the parcel's fee title acquisition cost. Other funds listed below would finance the remaining fee title cost and other cost items for each parcel. Grants are awarded for each parcel to the park agency that is acquiring the land from the list of parcels in the 2015 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List. The regional park agencies that will acquire fee title to these parcels are: Carver County Parks, Dakota County Parks, Scott County Parks, Three Rivers Park District and Washington County Parks.	\$ 2,170,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 2,170,000</b>

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> \$1,466,667 Metro Council bonds \$1,205,556 provided by Regional Park Agencies These funds would finance acquisition transaction costs (e.g. appraisal, Phase 1 environmental review, title insurance, title search and other legal services); a portion of fee title acquisition costs such as earnest money payments and remaining fee title cost not financed with ENRTF funds; required property tax equivalency payments; and stewardship costs (e.g. removal of dead/dying trees that pose danger to public, signing/posting land as park or trail land).	\$2,652,222	Pending Legislative Approval of ENRTF appropriation
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> N/A	\$ -	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> N/A	\$ -	
<b>Funding History:</b> \$ 2,500,000 - ENRTF for ML 2007-4f "Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition" \$ 1,500,000 - ENRTF for ML 2008-3i "Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition" \$ 1,290,000 - ENRTF for ML 2009-4c "Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition" \$ 2,250,000 - ENRTF for ML 2011-4c "Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition" \$ 6,000,000 - State bonds for ML 2006, Chap. 258, Sec. 17, Subd 8 "Acquisition of Whitetail Woods Regional Park"                                 \$ 282,789 - ENRTF for ML 2008-3a "Metro Conservation Corridors" \$ 5,577,747 - Metro Council bonds as match to ENRTF appropriations \$13,692,976 - Regional Park Agency funds as match to ENRTF and Metro Council bonds	\$ 33,093,512	
<b>Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> \$3,424 remaining from ML 2011-4c "Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition"	\$ 3,424	Not Legally Obligated

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2015 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List

**Project Title:** Metroplitan Regional Park System Acquisition--Phase 4  
**Project Manager:** Arne Stefferud  
**Organization:** Metropolitan Council  
**ENRTF \$ Request:** \$2,170,000  
**Project Length and Completion Date:** 3 years, June 30, 2018  
**Date of Proposal:** March 27, 2014 **UPDATED June 20, 2014**

#	Acquisition Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status:
		Latitude	Longitude										
	Note: Parcel 5 was part of the original proposal but has been acquired and thus withdrawn from this list. It is shown here so that parcels 6 to 16 will not have to be renumbered and can align with aerial map labeling of those parcels.												
1	Carver County, Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island	44° 51' 40.0212"N	93° 47' 2.6514" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Carver	Shoreland and Forest	Fee Title Acquisition	33.7	1.04	Private	Fee Title; Carver County	Actively negotiating
2	Dakota County, Lake Byllesby -Augustine	44° 31' 6" N	93° 1' 40" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Dakota	Forest/Cannon River shoreline	Fee Title Acquisition	110	1.06	Private	Fee Title; Dakota County	Being appraised
3	Dakota County, Miesville- Ellison	44° 33' 36.212" N	92° 49' 19.461" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Dakota	Forest/Protection of Trout Brook	Fee Title Acquisition	49	1	Private	Fee Title; Dakota County	Being appraised
4	Dakota County, Spring Lake-Sorg I	44° 46' 8.697" N	92° 55' 23.412" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Dakota	Forest, Spring Lake bluff and shoreline	Fee Title Acquisition	8	0.07	Private	Fee Title; Dakota County	Appraised and part of tentative settlement
5	Withdrawn from list See note above. Dakota County, Spring Lake- Drews	44° 45' 15.335" N	92° 56' 24.67" W	Acquisition completed on March 31, 2014	N/A	Dakota	Forest and Spring Lake shoreline	Fee Title Acquisition	10	0.24	Private	Fee Title; Dakota County	Acquisition completed on March 31, 2014
6	Dakota County, Spring Lake - Sorg II	44° 45' 13.34" N	92° 56' 4.835" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Dakota	Forest and Spring Lake bluff and shoreline	Fee Title Acquisition	77	0.34	Private	Fee Title; Dakota County	Appraised and negotiations underway

#	Acquisition Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status:
		Latitude	Longitude										
	Note: Parcel 11 was part of the original proposal but has been withdrawn from this list. It is shown here so that parcels 6 to 16 will not have to be renumbered and can align with aerial map labeling of those parcels.												
7	Dakota County, Spring Lake- Volkert	44° 44' 48.667" N	92° 57' 0.774" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Dakota	Forest, wetland, Spring Lake shoreline	Fee Title Acquisition	40	0.15	Private	Fee Title; Dakota County	Appraised and negotiations underway
8	Scott County, Blakeley Bluffs, PID 29080030	44° 36.560' N	93° 51.458' W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Scott	Minnesota River Floodplain	Fee Title Acquisition	15	0	Private Party	Fee Title; Scott County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
9	Scott County, Blakeley Bluffs, PID 29180050	44° 35.897' N	93° 52.679' W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Scott	Minnesota River Floodplain	Fee Title Acquisition	16	0.3	Private Party	Fee Title; Scott County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
10	Scott County, Blakeley Bluffs, PID 29180040	44° 35.897' N	93° 52.679' W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Scott	Minnesota River Floodplain	Fee Title Acquisition	50	0.61	Private Party	Fee Title; Scott County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
11	Withdrawn from list. See note above. Scott County, Blakeley Bluffs, PID 29170070, 290170081	44° 36.007' N	93° 51.499' W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Scott	Minnesota River Bluffs and Ravines with Native Oak Forests	Fee Title Acquisition	146	0.64	Developer (LLC)	Fee Title; Scott County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
12	Three Rivers Park District, Rush Creek RT: Stone's Throw East (PID 36-120-23-41-0002)	45° 9' 28.948" N	93° 31' 29.07" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Hennepin	Rush Creek wetlands/ floodplain	Fee Title Acquisition	60	0.5	for-profit entity	Fee Title; Three Rivers Park District	Engaged in landowner negotiations
13	Three Rivers Park District, Rush Creek RT: Stone's Throw West (PID 36-120-23-24-0001)	45° 9' 37.33" N	93° 32' 5.404" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome	N/A	Hennepin	Rush Creek wetlands/ floodplain	Fee Title Acquisition	50	0.4	for-profit entity	Fee Title; Three Rivers Park District	Engaged in landowner negotiations

#	Acquisition Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status:
		Latitude	Longitude									
14	Washington County, Point Douglas Trail Acquisition	44° 45' 25.6" N	92° 50' 59.9" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome N/A	Washington	Wooded hillside near Mississippi River	Fee Title Acquisition	6.8	0	private	Fee Title; Washington County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
15	Washington County, St. Croix Valley Trail Acquisition	44° 46' 27" N	92° 48' 37" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome N/A	Washington	Wooded St. Croix river frontage	Fee Title Acquisition	16.65	0.47	non-profit	Fee Title; Washington County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
16	Washington County, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	44°48' 36"N	92° 47' 17" W	Confidential pending negotiations outcome N/A	Washington	Wooded St. Croix river frontage	Fee Title Acquisition	42	0.28	private	Fee Title; Washington County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
	Totals		Estimated Total	\$ 8,150,000				574	6.9			
NOTES: Three Rivers Park District parcel acquisitions will allow the Park District to restore a significant wetland along Rush Creek improving the water quality and overall health of Rush Creek as well as the Elm Creek and Mississippi River which it ultimately drains into. This project is still evolving and the actual acres, cost, acquisition method, etc. will be determined through negotiations with the property owner and City of Rogers.												

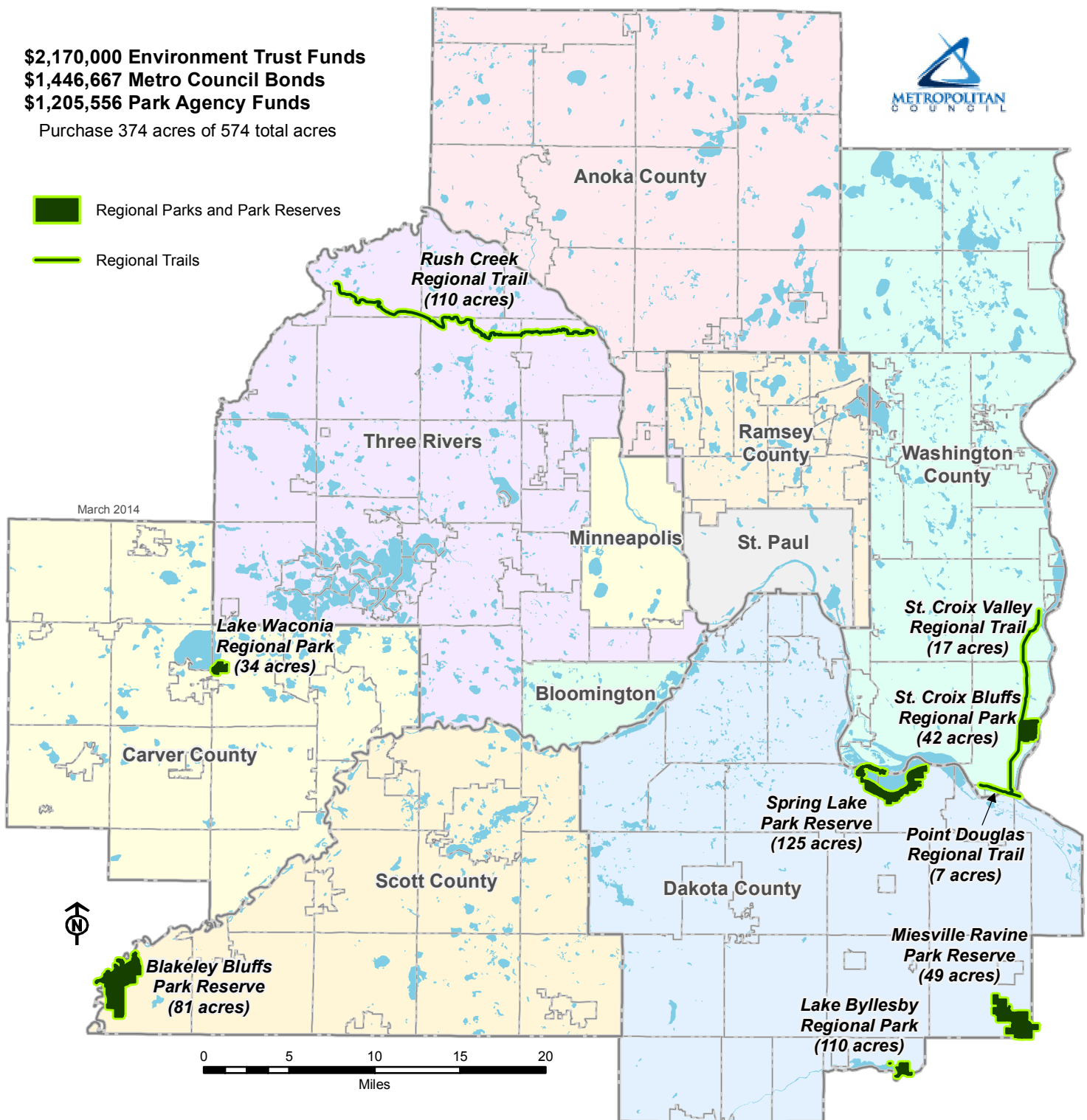
## Regional Parks and Trails Where High Quality Natural Resource Land Could be Acquired

**\$2,170,000 Environment Trust Funds**

**\$1,446,667 Metro Council Bonds**

**\$1,205,556 Park Agency Funds**

Purchase 374 acres of 574 total acres





## **PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS**

Arne Stefferud is the manager of the Metropolitan Council's Regional Parks and Natural Resources program. He oversees the Metropolitan Council's Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant program that is proposed to be partially funded with this proposal. He developed the grant program in 2001. The grants are awarded to regional park agencies to acquire land that is consistent with Metro Council approved master plans for each park and trail.

Since 1993, Mr. Stefferud has prepared LCCMR funding proposals, work programs and status reports plus overseen grant authorizations and payments of \$40.3 million of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations for regional park and trail land acquisition and capital improvement grants.

## **ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

The Metropolitan Council is responsible for planning the orderly and economical growth of the seven county Twin Cities metropolitan region. The Regional Parks and Natural Resources program supports the Council to:

1. Create a Regional Parks Policy Plan that identifies the general location of lands for regional parks and trails which together with State parks and trails will reasonably meet the outdoor recreation needs of the region's residents and visitors.
2. Prepare a regional parks capital improvement program that prioritizes the expenditure of public funds on projects in Council approved regional park and trail master plans for the acquisition, rehabilitation and development of the Regional Park System. The Council also issues up to \$40 million of general obligation bonds for regional park and trail capital projects and uses those funds to match State funds for capital projects and land acquisition.
3. Authorize and administer about \$25 million annually of grants financed with State appropriations and Metro. Council bonds to implement the regional parks capital improvement program and \$8.5 million of State general funds to partially finance the operations and maintenance of the Regional Park System.

Finance 45% of costs to acquire 374 acres of high quality natural resource lands for Regional Parks and Trails in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Regional Park System

Location of 7 regional parks and 3 regional trails and acreages of land in those parks and trails that could be acquired with Metropolitan Regional Park System Land Acquisition Phase 4 funding proposal

34 acres Lake Waconia Regional Park northeastern Carver County

110 acres Lake Byllesby Regional Park southern Dakota County

49 acres Miesville Ravine Park Reserve southern Dakota County

125 acres Spring Lake Park Reserve northern Dakota County

81 acres Blakely Bluffs Park Reserve southwestern Scott County

7 acres Point Douglas Regional Trail southern Washington County

42 acres Saint Croix Bluffs Regional Park southern Washington County

17 acres Saint Croix Valley Regional Trail southern Washington County

110 acres Rush Creek Regional Trail northern Hennepin County (Three Rivers Park District)