

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 268-G

Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition Phase 6

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: \$ 2,500,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2023 (3 yrs)

Summary:

This project will acquire approximately five properties with high-quality natural resources or strong natural resource restoration potential for the metropolitan Regional Parks System.

Name: Emmett Mullin

Sponsoring Organization: Metropolitan Council

Job Title: Manager, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Department: _____

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St. Paul MN 55101

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Email emmett.mullin@metc.state.mn.us

Web Address: https://metro council.org/Parks.aspx

Location:

Region: Metro

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

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

Map of metropolitan Regional Parks System units with parcels on Attachment C

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



PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition – Phase 6

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will acquire approximately five properties with high-quality natural resources or strong natural resource restoration potential for the metropolitan Regional Parks System. This system serves as the State Parks System of the metropolitan area, offering large-scale, natural-resource based recreation opportunities to all Minnesotans. The properties included in this proposal offer a broad range of ecological significance, from native prairie, wetland, river bluffs and ravines, shoreline, and agricultural land 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. The project will contribute to the equitable use of the Regional Parks System by increasing access and protecting properties for public use in Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties in perpetuity. Some of the properties would help assemble the land for regional parks or trails that are not currently open to the public; others would purchase inholdings for regional parks or trails that are open to the public.

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 30 properties that may potentially be acquired between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2023. The parcels range in size from 2.93 acres 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 property pool which allows Agencies to capitalize on opportunities as they arise.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1 Title: Acquisition of properties

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.

The Council serves as the fiscal agent and awards grants to the Agencies to assist with buying property for the metropolitan Regional Parks System through its Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) program. The PAOF program has three major funding sources: ENRTF, Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (Legacy), and matching dollars. Agencies must provide at least 25% of acquisition costs from non-state funds. PAOF is administered as “first-come, first-served.”

In accordance with [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.313](#), the Council first reviews the application to confirm that the property is within the boundaries of a Council-approved regional park or trail master plan. The Council then conducts an administrative review of the appraisal and other proposed acquisition-related costs. If all elements of the purchase conform to ENRTF requirements, the staff presents the item for approval by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC), as required by [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.315](#). Next, the Community Development Committee and the full Council consider the item for approval. Agencies are then able to close on the property.

After the grant agreement is executed, the necessary amount of ENRTF funding and the Council’s match have been properly added to the Council’s Authorized Capital Program, and upon receipt of a properly substantiated claim, the Council reimburses the Agency for approved costs. It is the Council’s practice to require Agencies to spend down their match on eligible ancillary costs, such as the appraisal, title search or



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2020 Main Proposal Template**

closing costs, so that the Council’s reimbursement request to LCCMR includes only a portion of the purchase price.

The Council is requesting \$2.5 million in ENRTF funds, which it would more than double with \$1.66 million in matching Council bonds and \$1.39 million in Agency funds, for a total of \$5.5 million. The total estimated cost to acquire all 30 properties is more than \$17 million.

Some of these properties do contain residences; the Council and Agency staff have reviewed each of them to ensure that the property can be split in a logical and reasonable manner so that ENRTF funds the portion without a house.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$2,500,000

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>Request for proposals</i>	<i>January 31, 2019</i>
<i>Agencies submit grant applications as properties become available</i>	<i>Ad hoc</i>
<i>Council reviews properties for inclusion in a Council-approved master plan, reviews proposals for completeness and eligibility, and awards grants</i>	<i>Generally within 2 months of application submittal</i>
<i>Agencies may close on properties</i>	<i>After award</i>
<i>Properties acquired for the Regional Parks System</i>	<i>June 30, 2023</i>

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:

Regional Park Implementing Agency	Contact name
Dakota County	Al Singer
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Christine Downey
Ramsey County	Scott Yonke
Scott County	Patty Freeman
Three Rivers Park District	Kelly Grissman
Washington County	Sharon Price

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Individual Agencies are responsible for the development and maintenance of the properties once they are acquired. Historically, the state provides an average of 9% of the operation and maintenance funding in accordance with [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.351](#), with the vast majority coming from local sources. Agencies undertake removal of unneeded structures, natural resource restoration, and trail and facility development; these activities may be funded from a variety of sources, including state General Obligation bonds, Legacy projects, or self-funding.

V. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

- A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet**
- B. Maps**
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet**
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**
- E. Research Addendum – N/A**
- F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**
- G. Letter or Resolution – N/A**
- H. Financial Capacity – N/A**

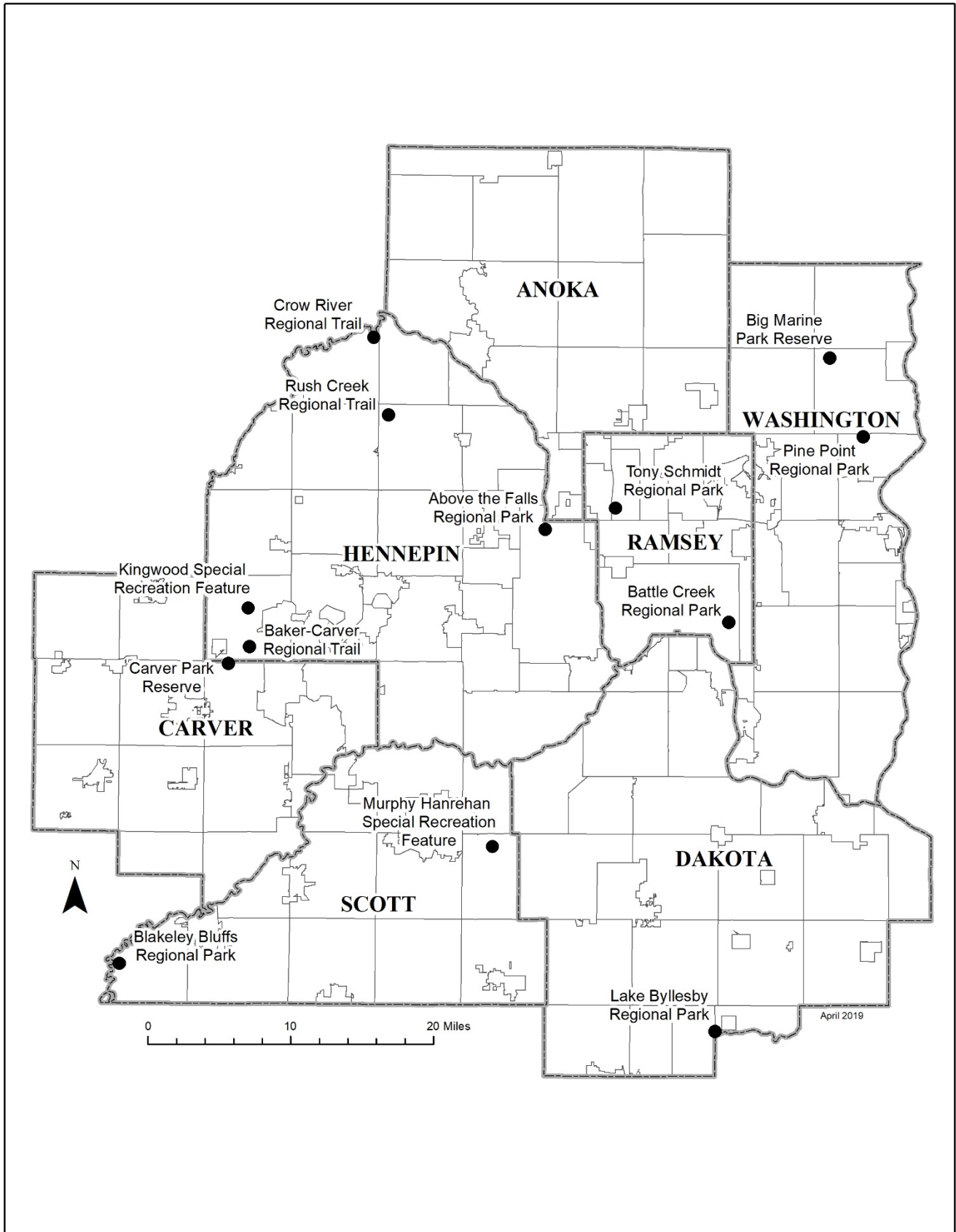


Project Title: Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition - Phase 6
 Legal Citation: Staff will update the legal citation upon work plan approval by the LCCMR following the MN Legislative Session.
 Project Manager: Emmett Mullin
 Organization: Metropolitan Council
 M.L. 2020 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,500,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2023
 Today's Date: April 15, 2019

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	
BUDGET ITEM					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Fee Title Acquisition					
<i>Grants to Regional Parks Implementing Agencies for approximately 5 properties. Some may be converted to trail easements as awards are made.</i>		\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000	
Easement Acquisition		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Professional Services for Acquisition		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Printing		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Travel expenses in Minnesota		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Other		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000	
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT		Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State:			\$ -	\$ -	
Metropolitan Council matching funds		Pending	\$ 1,666,667	\$ -	\$ 1,666,667
Regional Parks Implementing Agency matching funds		Pending	\$ 1,388,888	\$ -	\$ 1,388,888
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS		Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
M.L. 2014, Ch. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 07b; extended to 6/30/18 by M.L. 2017, Ch. 96, Sec. 2, Subd 17(a)(5) and M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 20.		\$ 678,463	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 821,537	\$ 678,463
M.L. 2015, Chp. 75, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b, as extended M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 20		\$ 67,338	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2 subd. 9(a)		\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2020 Attachment B: Map of Project Locations
PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition – Phase 6



Legal Citation: Staff will update the legal citation upon work plan approval by the LCCMR following the MN Legislative Session.

Project Manager: Emmett Mullin

Organization: Metropolitan Council

M.L. 2020 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,500,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2023

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#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Payment in Lieu of Taxes	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shore-line Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder	Status of work
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Lake Byllesby Regional Park 310070070010 350120080010 350130003010 310070070011	44.315	93.25	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Dakota	On the Cannon River, with oxbows and river banks, floodplain forest, and cultivated fields, which will be restored.	Fee title acquisition	110.00	1.00	Private	Dakota County	Under negotiation
2	Baker-Carver Regional Trail 1611724140001	44.945851	-93.708037	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Wooded	Easement	5	-	Private	Three Rivers	Pending willing seller.
3	Baker-Carver Regional Trail 2711724330005	44.907152	-93.703663	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Wetland, wooded. Western and NW portion is Six Mile Creek	Easement	1	0.01	Private	Three Rivers	Pending willing seller.
4	Baker-Carver Regional Trail 3411724220004	44.906037	-93.702482	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Wetland. NW corner is Six Mile Creek	Easement	3	0.01	Private	Three Rivers	Pending willing seller.
5	Battle Creek Regional Park 11.28.222.10.004	45.04928	-93.18127	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Ramsey	Last parcel to complete the connection of over 100 acres of steep old-growth oak forest bluff parkland that abuts a native prairie ridge plateau within Battle Creek Regional Park. If not purchased for parkland preservation this unique piece of property will be lost to development putting a gap in the habitat and greatly losing the aesthetic value for passive recreation.	Fee title acquisition	4.14	-	Private	Ramsey County	Under negotiation
6	Big Marine Park Reserve #1 06.031.20.44.0001	45.197516	-92.878383	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Washington	Wet Prairies combined with Aspen-Oak. Wet Prairies are herbaceous wetland systems dominated by mesic to wet prairie grasses and forbs, with a very diverse array of native grasses, sedges and wildflowers. Aspen-Oak are deciduous forests and woodlands dominated by quaking aspen, red oak, white oak, and burr oak.	Fee title acquisition	39.47	-	Private	Washington County	Under negotiation
7	Big Marine Park Reserve #2 05.031.20.33.0001	45.197616	-92.87346	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Washington	Wet Prairies combined with Aspen-Oak. Wet Prairies are herbaceous wetland systems dominated by mesic to wet prairie grasses and forbs, with a very diverse array of native grasses, sedges and wildflowers. Aspen-Oak are deciduous forests and woodlands dominated by quaking aspen, red oak, white oak, and burr oak.	Fee title acquisition	39.54	-	Private	Washington County	Under negotiation
8	Big Marine Park Reserve #3 04.031.20.22.0001 33.032.20.33.0003 33.032.20.33.0002 32.032.20.44.0004	45.21005	-92.853516	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Washington	These parcels have a combination of mixed hardwood and pine forests that are closed canopy comprised primarily by oak, maple, basswood, and pine species. These forests tend to be cool mesic forest systems	Fee title acquisition	46.06	-	Private	Washington County	Under negotiation

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Payment in Lieu of Taxes	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shore-line Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder	Status of work
		Latitude	Longitude										
9	Big Marine Park Reserve #4 06.031.20.11.0001	45.206083	-92.881516	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Washington	This parcel is mostly cultivated but does contain a small portion of herbaceous and woodlands.	Fee title acquisition	79.74	-	Private	Washington County	Under negotiation
10	Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park 29.18.0050	44.5918	-93.88834	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Scott	Minnesota River Floodplain; MN County Biological Survey -Silver Maple Floodplain Forest; site part of many contiguous floodplain parcels planned for preservation	Fee title acquisition	11.87	-	Private	Scott County	Under negotiation
11	Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park 29190021	44.60653	-93.85437	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Scott	MN River Bluffs and ravines; intermittent creek; Red Cedar Forest patch; MN County Biological Survey - Oakforest; mixed non-native woodland	Fee title acquisition	74.00	-	Private	Scott County	Under negotiation
12	Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park 29190030	44.603	-93.84699	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Scott	MN River Bluff; Maple Basswood	Fee title acquisition	15.00	-	Private	Scott County	Under negotiation
13	Blakely Bluffs Regional Park 29170072	44.5972	-93.85359	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Scott	MN River Bluff; MN County Biological Survey - Maple Basswood and Oak Forest; Croplands	Fee title acquisition	40.89	-	Private	Scott County	Under negotiation
14	Blakely Bluffs Regional Park 29080035	44.57348	-93.88894	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Scott	MN River Floodplain and Uplands; Old field/pasture; some cultivated areas	Fee title acquisition	96.01	0.40	Private	Scott County	Under negotiation
15	Blakely Bluffs Regional Park	44.586	-93.883	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Scott	MN River bluff and ravines; MN County Biological Survey - Oak Forest and Maple Basswood Forest	Fee title acquisition	40.00	-	Private	Scott County	Under negotiation
16	Carver Park Reserve 070050400	44.889749	-93.733522	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Carver	Agriculture with opportunity to restore to prairie and forest. Southern boundary is Parley Lake.	Fee title acquisition	7.00	0.14	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Under negotiation
17	Crow River Regional Trail 1212023120001	45.222106	-93.529067	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Wetland, wooded. Northern portion abuts Crow River	Easement/Fee Title	35	0.31	Private	Three Rivers	Pending willing seller. Potential subdivision development; however, no current plans for
18	Kingswood Special Recreation Feature 1511724220005	44.946864	-93.701689	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Wooded, wetland, restore to prairie. Western Boundary is Long Lake.	Fee title acquisition	16.00	0.02	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Under negotiation
19	Murphy Hanrehan Special Recreation Feature 049040080	44.701359	-93.356526	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Scott	Agriculture with opportunity to restore to prairie and forest. Eastern boundary is Credit River.	Fee title acquisition	51.00	0.30	Private/LLC	Three Rivers Park District OR Scott County	Under negotiation
20	Pine Point Regional Park 05.030.20.11.0002	45.121283	-92.82576	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Washington	This parcel is mostly cultivated but does contain upland oak variety which the combined areas used by a variety of birds and mammals. It is excellent for open land wildlife such as deer, pheasant, fox, grouse, etc.	Fee title acquisition	48.52	-	Private	Washington County	Under negotiation

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Payment in Lieu of Taxes	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shore-line Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder	Status of work
		Latitude	Longitude										
21	Rush Creek Regional Trail 0411922220006	45.151151	-93.479741	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Wooded, wetland. Northern portion is Rush Creek.	Fee title acquisition	3	0.15	Private/Trust	Three Rivers Park District	Under negotiation
22	Rush Creek Regional Trail 0411922220005	45.151012	-93.480331	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Wooded, wetland. Northern portion is Rush Creek.	Fee title acquisition	5	0.15	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Under negotiation
23	Rush Creek Regional Trail 0411922120003	45.149096	-93.468788	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Partial agriculture, wooded, wetland. Northern portion in Rush Creek. The regional trail would traverse through the wooded portion along the creek.	Fee title acquisition	30	0.50	Private/LLP	Three Rivers Park District	Under negotiation
24	Rush Creek Regional Trail 0611922140002	45.14546	-93.510486	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Agriculture	Fee title or easement	4	-	Private	Three Rivers	Pending willing seller.
25	Rush Creek Regional Trail 0611922420002	45.144641	-93.507337	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Agriculture	Fee title or easement	5	-	Private	Three Rivers	Pending willing seller.
26	Rush Creek Regional Trail 0611922440001	45.14424	-93.503151	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Agriculture, wooded, wetland. NW is Rush Creek.	Fee title or easement	12	0.35	Private/LLC	Three Rivers	Pending willing seller.
27	Rush Creek Regional Trail 0611922440004	45.142023	-93.503073	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Wooded, wetland, some agriculture. Northern half is Rush Creek.	Fee title or easement	8	0.31	Private/LLC	Three Rivers	Pending willing seller.
28	Rush Creek Regional Trail 3612023340002	45.154328	-93.531733	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Partial agriculture, wooded, wetland. NE corner is Rush Creek	Fee title acquisition	30.00	0.05	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Under negotiation
29	Tony Schmidt Regional Park 33.30.232.10.002	45.04928	-93.18127	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Ramsey	This property consists of native prairie and wetland connecting to surrounding Tony Schmidt Regional Park natural area. This property is in the middle of the park and if purchased would close the gap to preserve these ecologically beneficial habitats avoiding the potential for development.	Fee title acquisition	2.93	-	Private	Ramsey County	Under negotiation
30	Above the Falls Regional Park 03.029.243.10.012	45.027228	-93.2841157	Confidential pending negotiations	n/a	Hennepin	Vacant industrial site on Mississippi River - one of the last privately-held parcels available. Excellent potential for restoration to natural setting.	Fee title acquisition	3.25	0.12	For-profit entity	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Under negotiation
\$17,154,351									866.42	3.82			

Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

Fee Title Acquisition

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

Each of the parcels listed in the Metropolitan Council's proposal was selected by the individual Regional Park Implementing Agency (Agency) to assemble property for the regional park and trail units within their jurisdictions. Some of these parcels are inholdings within units already open to the public; others will help to build out new regional parks or trails. [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.351](#) identifies the 10 Agencies as:

- Anoka County
- The City of Bloomington
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- Ramsey County
- The City of Saint Paul
- Scott County
- Three Rivers Park District
- Washington County

This proposal includes properties within the jurisdictions of Dakota County, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Ramsey County, Scott County, Three Rivers Park District, and Washington County. Agencies selected each parcel based on its eligibility for ENRTF and the current state of negotiations for that property.

If this proposal is funded, ENRTF dollars will be available to the Agencies through the Council's Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund grant program. The program offers funding on a first-come-first-served basis, with state funding from both the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (Legacy) and ENRTF. Qualified properties already on the acquisition list for an approved ENRTF work plan may be funded through ENRTF or a combination of ENRTF and Legacy. The Council matches every \$3 in state funds with \$2 in regional bonds, and the Agency must also contribute at least 25% of the total cost for each acquisition.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.

[Minnesota Statutes, section 473.313](#) requires the Agencies to prepare a master plan for each of the Regional Parks System units within their jurisdictions and gives the Council sole authority to review and approve the plans. No funds are awarded from any of the Council's Regional Parks grant programs unless the project conforms to a Council-approved master plan. The master plans may be amended as necessary at the request of the Agency and after staff review and approval by a formal vote of the Council. If an amendment is required to encompass a grant-funded project, the Council must approve the amendment prior to awarding the grant. Note that for the Regional Parks System units listed below that do not have online access to their master plans, the Council will provide PDF copies of the master plans upon request.

- Acquisition #1: [Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan](#) (Dakota County)
- Acquisitions #2 & 3: [Baker/Carver Regional Trail Master Plan](#) (Three Rivers Park District)
- Acquisition #5: Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan (Ramsey County; no online link; the master plan was approved by the Council on August 11, 1987)
- Acquisitions #6-9: [Big Marine Park Reserve Master Plan](#) (Washington County)
- Acquisitions #12-15: [Blakely Bluffs Regional Park Master Plan](#) (Scott County)
- Acquisition #16: Carver Park Reserve Master Plan (Three Rivers Park District)
- Acquisition #17: [Crow River Regional Trail Master Plan](#) (Three Rivers Park District)
- Acquisition #18: Kingswood Special Recreation Feature Acquisition Master Plan (Three Rivers Park District; note that this property will require an amendment to the acquisition master plan prior to acquisition; no online link for the acquisition master plan, but the [Council approved the plan on January 9, 2019](#))

- Acquisition #19: [Murphy Hanrehan Park Reserve Master Plan](#) (Three Rivers Park District in partnership with Scott County)
- Acquisition #20: [Pine Point Regional Park Master Plan](#) (Washington County)
- Acquisitions #21-28: [Rush Creek Regional Trail Master Plan](#) (Three Rivers Park District)
- Acquisition #29: Tony Schmidt Regional Park Master Plan (Ramsey County; no online link; the [Council approved the master plan on September 7, 2007](#))
- Acquisition #30: [Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan](#) (Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board)

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management 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.

Restoration and management plans are included in each of the master plans and subsequent development plans. In general, short-term plans include removal of invasive species and restoration of native vegetation. Financing includes:

- Agencies use their local funds for the vast majority of operation and maintenance cost. [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.351](#) requires that the state provides for 40% of operation and maintenance funding; however, since 1985 Agencies have paid an average of 91% of the total costs with their own funds.
- To fund natural resource restoration, the Agencies use multiple resources.
- For capital development, the Agencies use a combination of local funding and state bonding, which the Council matches at a rate of \$2 in regional bonds for every \$3 in state bonds.

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.

Although this requirement does not directly apply to the metropolitan Regional Parks System, a resolution of support from the Agency's governing body is a required element of every Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund grant application.



PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition – Phase 6

I. PROJECT MANAGER

- Emmett Mullin, Manager, Regional Parks and Natural Resources
Metropolitan Council, Community Development, Regional Planning Division
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Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101
emmett.mullin@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1360
- Emmett Mullin has served in the role of manager of the Regional Parks and Natural Resources unit at the Metropolitan Council since 2015. In this capacity, he serves as one of the three liaisons to the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee, a 17-member body that oversees the implementation of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan. Prior to this position, he worked for more than 20 years with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, where he served in a number of planning capacities, including serving as the project manager of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan as well as participating in the development of three State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. Additionally, he worked on several projects supported by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

II. ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

For more than 50 years, the Metropolitan Council has played a key role in coordinating regional growth and planning. Today, the Metropolitan Council is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services for the Twin Cities metropolitan region.

More than three million people call the region their home – that’s about 55 percent of the entire state. The region also boasts 1.74 million jobs, representing 61 percent of all jobs in Minnesota. Compared with competing regions, our residents are healthier, more educated, and have greater access to parks and trails. These successes are made possible by the partnerships the Council has with more than 180 local communities across seven counties.

The Minnesota State Legislature has charged the Council with several responsibilities for the metropolitan Regional Parks System.

- [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.147](#) requires the Council to prepare a long-range system policy plan for regional recreation open space, known as the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.
 - [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.313](#) requires the 10 Regional Parks Implementing Agencies to prepare master plans for the acquisition and development of regional recreation open space within their jurisdictions and requires the Council to review the master plans for consistency with the Council’s policy plan.
 - [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.351](#) defines the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies as “the counties of Anoka, Washington, Ramsey, Scott, Carver, Dakota, the city of St. Paul, the city of Bloomington, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Three Rivers Park District.”
 - [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.303](#) creates and defines the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission.
 - [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.315](#) authorizes the 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
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