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

**I. PROJECT MANAGER**

* Emmett Mullin, Manager, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

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* 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](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/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](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/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](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/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](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/473.303) creates and defines the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission.
* [Minnesota Statutes, section 473.315](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/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