

Business Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Committee Meeting Date: June 30, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: July 8, 2026

Business Item: 2026-110 SW

Annual Metropolitan Regional Parks Operation & Maintenance Allocation

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.351 and 297A.94(e)(3); 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Section 5
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Rachel Neuville, Budget Analyst (651-602-1216); Erin Acton, Grants Administrator (651-602-1938)
Division/Department:	Community Development / Finance and Administration

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission reports to the Metropolitan Council the Regional Parks and Trails System state fiscal year (SFY) 2027 Operations and Maintenance Funding requests.

Background

By law, the Council serves as the fiscal agent to distribute state funds to the ten Regional Park Implementing Agencies for operation and maintenance costs.

[Minn. Stat. § 473.351](#) requires that by July 15 of each year, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) reports to Council “the funding requests from the implementing agencies based on the actual expenditures made” in the previous year.

Staff conduct a review of the Agencies’ operation and maintenance (O&M) submittals to determine eligibility of claimed costs and the appropriate dollar distribution. The statute directs that the funding distribution be based on three factors:

- 40% is based on the *use* that each Agency’s regional parks and trails has in proportion to the total use of the Regional Parks and Trails System. Each agency’s total count of visitors comes from the 2025 Regional Parks and Trails System Annual Use Estimate produced by the Council.
- 40% is based on the O&M *expenditures* made by each Agency in proportion to the total O&M expenditures for the entire Regional Parks and Trails System. These numbers were determined following the eligibility review of 2025 calendar year Agency submittals.
- 20% is based on the *acreage* for each Agency’s regional parks and trails in proportion to the acreage of the entire Regional Parks and Trails System. The numbers are based on 2025 acreage as reported to the Council by each Agency.

The analysis this year will program \$11,740,000 appropriated by the State Legislature for state fiscal year 2027. The appropriation includes \$2,540,000 from the state General Fund and an estimated \$9,200,000 in lottery-in-lieu of sales tax revenue (LIL).

Table 1 below shows the Agencies' estimated distribution amounts for O&M funding for SFY 2027, as based on their reported actual eligible expenditures. The calculations underlying this year's distribution are attached in Table 2.

Table 1. State Fiscal Year 2026 O&M Distribution

Agency	Reported Actual 2025 O&M Expenses	Estimated Distribution Amount
Anoka County	\$9,288,528	\$956,335
Bloomington Parks	\$621,661	\$107,358
Carver County	\$2,687,077	\$280,584
Dakota County	\$11,659,649	\$819,300
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB)	\$30,705,425	\$2,884,283
Ramsey County	\$9,785,242	\$1,087,291
Saint Paul Parks	\$27,485,469	\$1,531,349
Scott County	\$2,689,556	\$222,630
Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) - Hennepin & Scott	\$50,685,230	\$3,310,456
Washington County	\$6,336,510	\$540,414
TOTAL	\$151,944,347	\$11,740,000

Rationale

The State Legislature funds a portion of the expenses necessary to run the Regional Parks and Trails System because the System draws a significant percentage of its visits from people that live outside of the political jurisdiction of the park or trail, including outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the State of Minnesota. The O&M appropriation comes from the State in its entirety; the Council neither matches the funds, nor withholds any for administrative costs. The statute requires the Council to review the claims presented by each Agency for eligibility and MPOSC to report the claimed costs to the Council, so the amounts are paid appropriately.

Thrive Lens Analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, the Thrive outcome of stewardship is supported by helping the ten Regional Park Implementing Agencies care for existing infrastructure within the Twin Cities' world-class Regional Parks and Trails System.

The Thrive outcome of livability is supported by investing in the System and providing access to outdoor recreation, enhanced quality of life, and opportunities for increased health and wellness.

Funding

Operations and Maintenance funding has been appropriated by the State of Minnesota for SFY 2027. Final passthrough amounts will be based upon actual revenues received.

Table 2. O&M Calculations by Agency, SFY 2027

Agency	Weighted Regional Park Acreage	Acres %	Regional Park Visits	Visits %	Regional Park Expenditures	Expenditure %	Funding %	FY27 General Fund Lump Sum	FY27 Lottery-in-Lieu Estimate	Projected total FY2027 distribution
Anoka	5,950.65	16.04%	4,217,524	6.23%	\$9,288,528	6.11%	8.15%	\$206,907	\$749,428	\$956,335
Bloomington	201.46	0.54%	1,086,865	1.61%	\$621,661	0.41%	0.91%	\$23,227	\$84,131	\$107,358
Carver	966.99	2.61%	1,965,230	2.90%	\$2,687,077	1.77%	2.39%	\$60,706	\$219,878	\$280,584
Dakota	3,878.69	10.46%	3,076,465	4.54%	\$11,659,649	7.67%	6.98%	\$177,259	\$642,041	\$819,300
MPRB	2,938.24	7.92%	25,218,132	37.25%	\$30,705,425	20.21%	24.57%	\$624,027	\$2,260,256	\$2,884,283
Ramsey	5,034.13	13.57%	6,720,539	9.93%	\$9,785,242	6.44%	9.26%	\$235,240	\$852,051	\$1,087,291
Saint Paul	2,482.42	6.69%	7,564,613	11.17%	\$27,485,469	18.09%	13.04%	\$331,314	\$1,200,035	\$1,531,349
Scott	1,602.78	4.32%	548,411	0.81%	\$2,689,556	1.77%	1.90%	\$48,167	\$174,463	\$222,630
TRPD/Scott County	1,783.20	4.81%	624,713	0.92%	\$3,151,212	2.07%	2.16%	\$54,870	\$198,742	\$253,612
TRPD/Hennepin Co	9,211.95	24.84%	14,482,293	21.39%	\$47,534,018	31.28%	26.04%	\$661,362	\$2,395,482	\$3,056,844
Washington	3,039.42	8.19%	2,193,644	3.24%	\$6,336,510	4.17%	4.60%	\$116,921	\$423,493	\$540,414
Totals	37,089.93	100.00%	67,698,429	100.00%	\$151,944,347	100.00%	100.00%	\$2,540,000	\$9,200,000	\$11,740,000