

# Modernizing twin cities' regional parks and trails

Resilient landscapes and ecosystems

The Metropolitan Council requests \$12 million in a one-time state appropriation to be matched by \$8 million in Met Council dollars. This investment would provide \$20 million directly to the 10 regional park implementing agencies that own and operate the regional parks system.

This spending would go toward renewing well-used facilities, increasing accessibility for people who have a disability so the outdoors and outdoor recreation are available to all, and creating up to date features that are reliable, available, and meet the recreational needs for current and future generations.

## IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS ARE NECESSARY

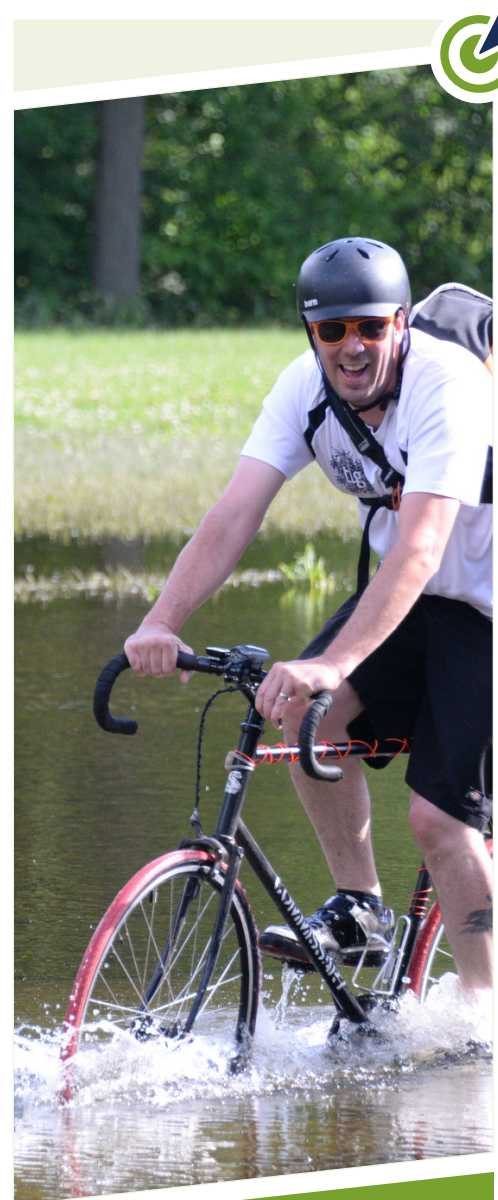
The Met Council's 2021 Regional Parks Visitor Study recurring themes included improvements like bathrooms and drinking water access, general maintenance, trail conditions, and improved signage or information.

This finding points to the many years that have had limited funds for modernization. Throughout the pandemic, more people have headed outdoors to use our parks and trails. The frequency and persistence of inland flooding, extended heat waves, and frequent freeze thaw cycles has intensified. All contributing to the growing need for repairs and improvements.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

The Met Council will distribute this funding to the 10 regional park implementing agencies using the Regional Parks Bonding Program formula that is defined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

This proposal also complements the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources request to modernize recreational facilities across the state of Minnesota.



**Extreme**  
**weather** events  
impact **natural**  
**resources**

This one-time investment will modernize outdoor recreation experiences for visitors to the regional parks and trails system.

**POTENTIAL PROJECTS INCLUDE:**

- Mobility or accessibility improvements
- Updating or improving facilities or infrastructure in response to persistent flooding
- Improvements in response to heating events
- Managing invasive species like Emerald Ash Borer
- Modernizing bathroom facilities
- Providing drinking water

The Met Council in partnership with the implementing agencies will determine a more detailed list of eligible projects ahead of distributing the funds.



**NATURE-BASED SYSTEM PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT GREENSPACE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**



**8 SPECIAL RECREATION FEATURES** (LIKE COMO PARK ZOO & CONSERVATORY AND GALE WOODS FARM)



**56 REGIONAL PARKS AND PARK RESERVES**



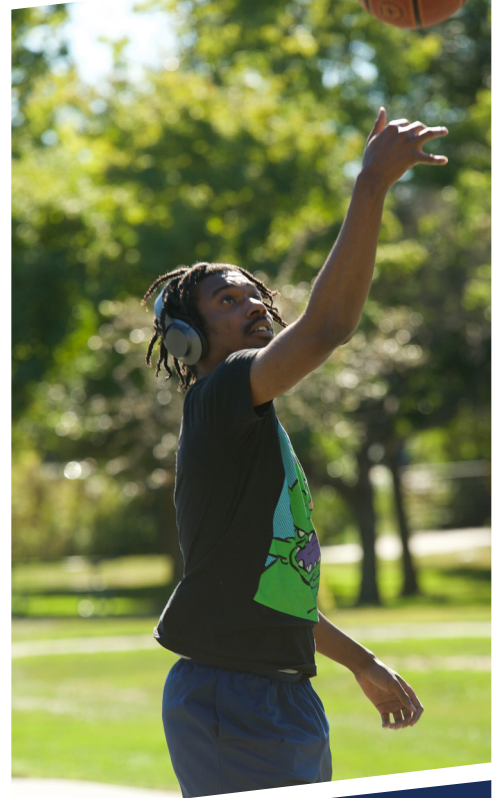
**OVER 415 MILES OF INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL TRAILS**



**65 MILLION VISITS IN 2021**



**54,500 ACRES OF LAND**



Fostering **wellness**, building **strong communities**



**One Minnesota Budget**