

# Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System



FY 2026-2027

## Operations and Maintenance Funding

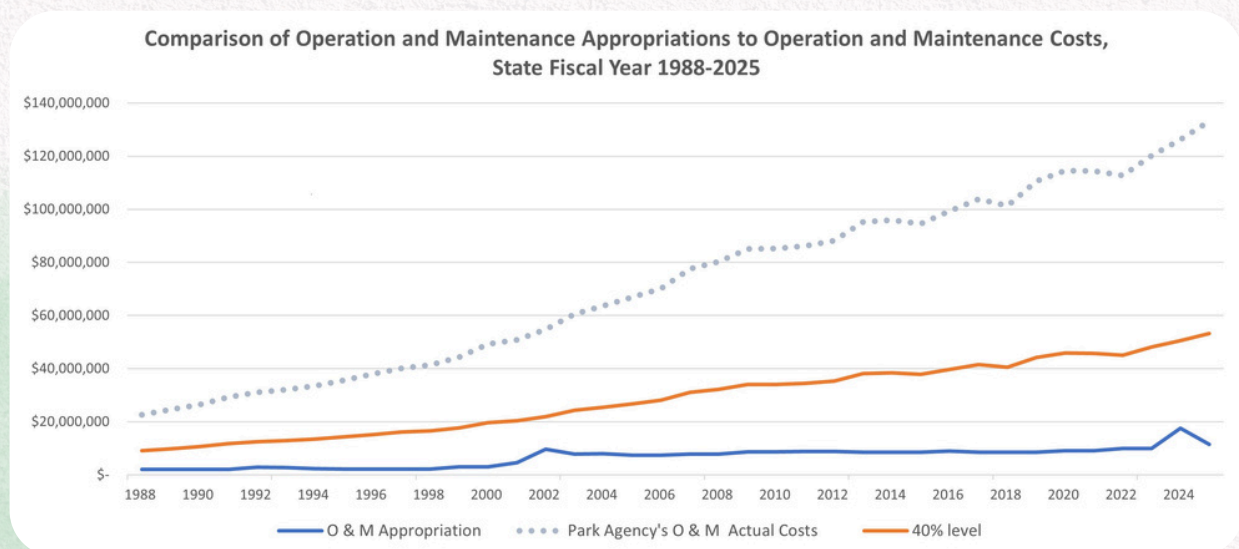
**Since 1998, state funding has averaged 9% of operation and maintenance costs annually, while state law calls for no less than 40%.**

When the state funds operations and maintenance for metropolitan regional parks and trails, it's investing in the people who call this region home- creating high-quality spaces to connect in the outdoors, places that build health, and assets that drive our economy.

With 46 regional parks, 12 park reserves, 8 special recreation feature and over 500 miles of regional trails, it takes more than \$133 million each year to keep the whole system in good order.

### Additional funding needed to meet statutory goal

Minnesota Statute 473.351 authorizes "no less than" 40% of the actual costs to be appropriated from state funding for the operation and maintenance of our Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System. With a 9% annual state funding level, this expense falls disproportionately on local taxpayers.



Anoka County  
Carver County  
City of Bloomington  
Dakota County

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Ramsey County  
City of Saint Paul  
Scott County  
Three Rivers Park District  
Washington County



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Operations and Maintenance Funding

**The Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trail System's Implementing Agencies** request increasing the base funding of **\$11.05 million** in general fund and **\$8.95 million** from the natural resources fund (lottery-in-lieu) in **FY26** and **\$21.5 million** in general fund and **\$8.95 million** from the natural resources fund (lottery-in-lieu) in **FY27** for regional parks operations and maintenance. This approach gradually increases the funding to the state commitment of 40% by 2030.

These high-quality spaces connect people to the outdoors, build health, and support assets that drive our economy. Funding covers the costs of facility maintenance, repair and restoration; trail maintenance and upkeep; forestry and groundskeeping.



## NATURE BASED SYSTEM

Provides significant greenspace and wildlife habitat.



## 58 REGIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

Providing opportunities for recreation, exercise and wellbeing.



## OVER 69 MILLION VISITS IN 2023

Connecting people to nature, developing a sense of belonging.



## 8 SPECIAL RECREATION FEATURES

Like Como Park Zoo and Conservatory and Gale Woods Farm



## NEARLY 500 MILES OF TRAILS

Trails are interconnected and regional.



## NEARLY 55,000 ACRES OF LAND

Fostering wellness and building strong communities.

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