

# Metropolitan Regional Parks System

FY 2024-2025 operations and maintenance funding

Since 1988, state funding has averaged 9% of operation and maintenance costs annually, while state law calls for no less than 40%.

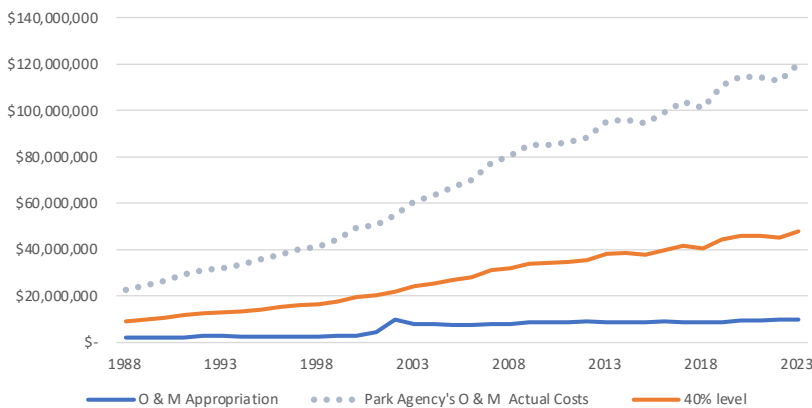
When the state funds operations and maintenance for metropolitan regional parks and trails, it's investing in the people who call this region home – creating high-quality spaces to connect in the outdoors, places that build health, and assets that drive our economy.

With 44 regional parks, 12 park reserves, 55 regional trails, and 8 special recreation features, it takes more than \$120 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 System. With a 9% annual state funding level, this expense falls disproportionately on local taxpayers.

### Comparing Operation and Maintenance Appropriations to Operation and Maintenance Costs, MN FY 1988-2023



**Connecting**  
people to nature,  
developing a  
**sense of**  
**belonging**

# Connecting People to Regional Parks and Trails, and Investing in Quality of Life.

The Twin Cities region is home to a Regional Park System renowned for its beauty, size, and variety of features that provide an abundance of opportunities for recreation, exercise, and wellbeing:



**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**