



Metro Parks Legislative
HOUSE
MEMBERS
DELEGATION
MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 7
NOON TO 1:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM



METRO REGIONAL PARK AGENCIES

- ANOKA COUNTY
- BLOOMINGTON
- CARVER COUNTY
- DAKOTA COUNTY
- MINNEAPOLIS PARKS
- RAMSEY COUNTY
- SAINT PAUL
- SCOTT COUNTY
- THREE RIVERS
PARK DISTRICT
- WASHINGTON COUNTY



METRO REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM

- 56 REGIONAL PARKS AND PARK RESERVES
- 63.3 MILLION VISITS IN 2019
 - 47.8 MILLION VISITS TO PARKS
 - 15.5 MILLION VISITS TO REGIONAL TRAILS
- 54,465 ACRES
 - 85 SQUARE MILES OF NATURE BASED RECREATION
- 415 MILES OF INTERCONNECTING REGIONAL TRAIL
 - ENOUGH TRAIL MILES TO REACH CHICAGO



PARKS: SAFE PLACES TO GATHER

Participation and visitation rates have increased dramatically since 2020

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of the Metro Regional Parks System has grown substantially.
- People rely on the parks and trails as safe places to gather with family and friends outdoors
- Visitation during the pandemic reached new peaks and continued investment in the system is needed



HF 2917 (Hansen) / SF 2766 (Ruud)

- In 2000, the Legislature dedicated 97% of the proceeds from the payment in lieu of sales tax on lottery ticket sales to natural resources projects including Metro Regional Parks.
- Over time, the original dedication of 97% has been reduced to 72.43%.
- These bills would restore the lottery in lieu dedication to the level established by the Legislature in 2000, **which would provide an additional \$2.6 million for operations and maintenance of the Metro Regional Parks System.**

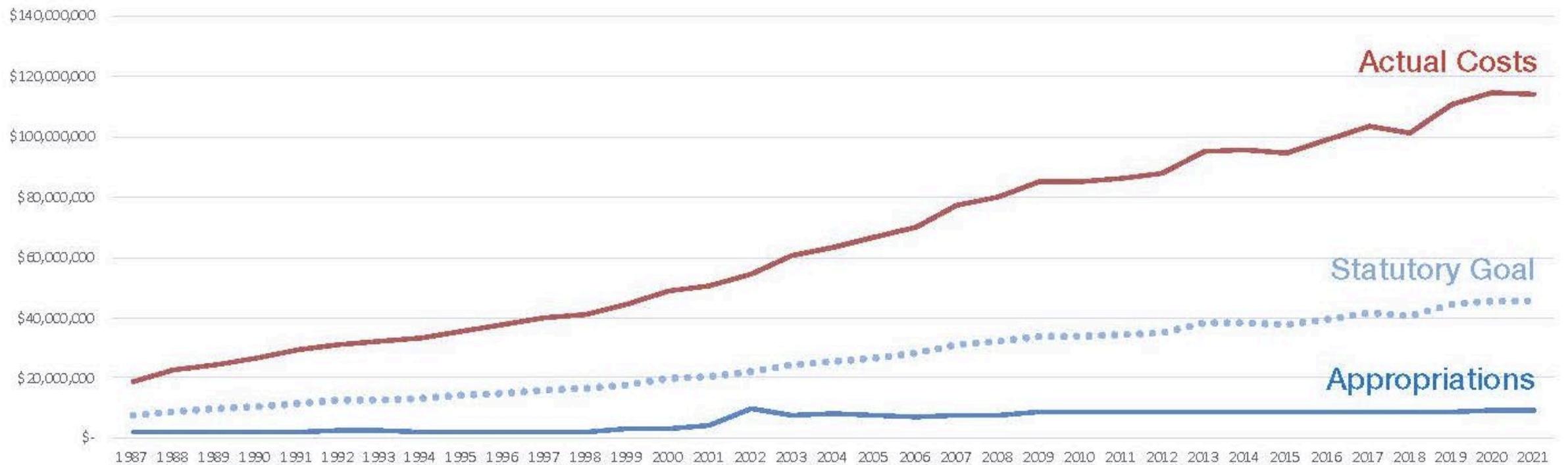


STATE FUNDING FOR METRO REGIONAL PARKS OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- MN Law 473.351 enacted in 1985 authorizes Metropolitan Council to disburse State appropriations to regional park implementing agencies.
- Purpose is to supplement local property tax and user fee revenues to operate and maintain Metropolitan Regional Park System.
- The law directs the state to finance no less than 40% of the cost of operating and maintaining the regional park system.
- Since 1986, actual funding has averaged 9% annually.

STATE FUNDING FOR METRO REGIONAL PARKS OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Historical Operation and Maintenance Appropriations, 1987 – 2021





CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDING

HF 3821 (Lillie) / SF 3331 (Pappas)

\$30,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the Metropolitan Council for the cost of improvements and betterments of a capital nature and acquisition by the council and local government units of regional recreational open-space lands in accordance with the council's policy plan as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 473.147. This appropriation must not be used to purchase easements.



HF 3821 / SF 3331

32 PARK AND TRAIL PROJECTS

- Locally approved projects
- Create jobs in our communities
- Serve a diverse population
- Preserve park assets
- Protect and improve the natural environment

METRO REGIONAL PARKS PROJECT LIST

Agency Name

Anoka County
Anoka County
Anoka County
Anoka County
Carver County
City of Bloomington
City of Bloomington
City of Saint Paul
City of Saint Paul
Dakota County
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Ramsey County
Ramsey County
Scott County
Three Rivers Park District
Washington County
Washington County
Washington County
Washington County
Washington County

Project Name

Riverfront Regional Park Maintenance Facility
Rum River Regional Trail Bridge Street Underpass
Bunker Hills Regional Park Boardwalk Reconstruction
Coon Creek Bridge Replacement and Slope stabilization
Waconia Regional Park Phase III Development
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Normandale Lake Site Improvements
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Bush Lake Beach Site Improvements
Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Segments 1 and 4 Reconstruction
Harriet Island Regional Park Riverwalk Design
Spring Lake Park Reserve Master Plan Improvements
Luce Line Regional Trail Land Acquisiton and Trail Implementation
Shingle Creek Regional Trail Master Plan Implementation
Victory/Wirth Memorial Parkway Regional Trail Recreation, Trail and Environmental Improvements
Above the Falls Regional Park Upper Harbor Terminal Park and Overall Master Plan Implementation
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Implementation
Grand Rounds Missing Link Land Acquisition and Trail Implementation
Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan Implementation, Historic Infrastructure Protection and Rehabilitation
Battle Creek Regional Park Infrastructure Improvements
Long Lake Regional Park Infrastructure Improvements
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Lakeside Group Camp and Fishing Access
Baker Park Reserve Picnic Area and Fishing Pier trail reconstruction
Hyland Park Reserve Boat Ramp Access Road and ADA Improvements
Luce Line Regional Trail Boardwalk Redecking South of Medicine Lake
Elm Creek Park Reserve Trail Bridge Replacements
Elm Creek Park Reserve Road and Parking Lot Reconstruction
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve Restroom and Picnic Shelter Improvements
Three Rivers Park District Trail Pavement Management Implementation at Regional Parks and Trails
Lake Elmo Park Reserve & Central Greenway Pavement Improvements
Lake Elmo Park Reserve Facility Improvements - Phase 1 (Filtration)
Big Marine Park Reserve Facility Safety Improvements
Lake Elmo Park Reserve Single Track Trail
Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond Play Area



EQUITY

More equitable programming and planning

Goal: Helping new visitors feel welcome and keep coming back



EQUITY

- Welcoming all residents, removing barriers, acknowledging history, and advancing equity
- Fostering wellness and building strong communities
- Connecting people to nature and helping them develop a sense of belonging



THANK YOU!

Questions?