

# 2026 Regional parks and trails bonding program

Providing and maintaining quality public park areas and facilities

Gov. Walz recommends **\$1 million** in general obligation bonds to the Metropolitan Council that will be matched with about **\$667,000** in regional funds for grants to improve regional parks and trails.

## DISTRIBUTING FUNDING ACROSS THE REGION

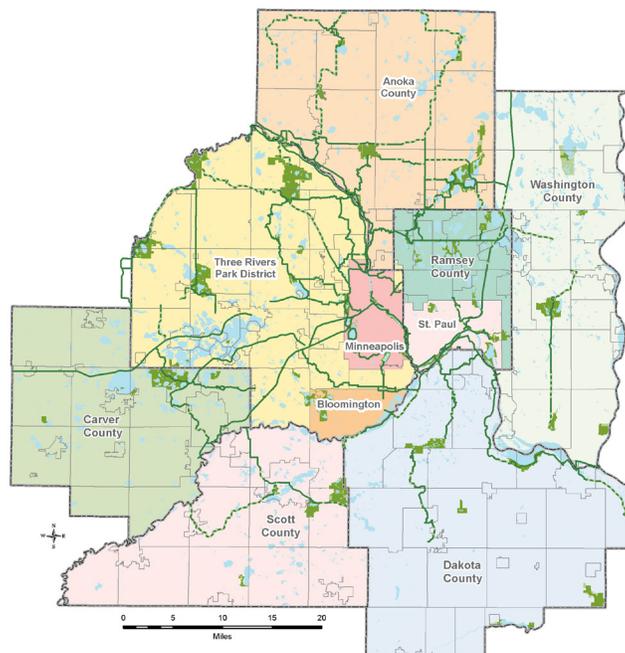
The Metropolitan Council passes every dollar of bonding to the 10 regional park implementing agencies that own and operate the regional parks and trails.

The Met Council's Parks Policy Plan and capital financing policy prescribe that the Met Council distribute parks bonding funds according to the following formula:

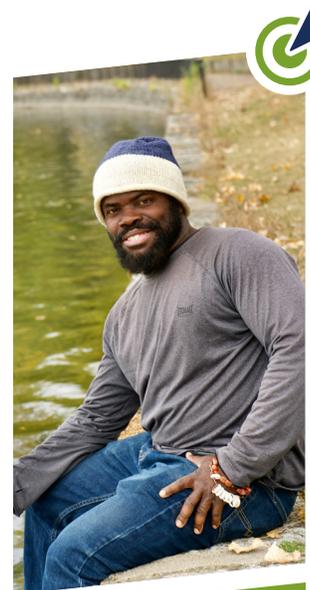
- **70% based** on the population within the jurisdiction of each agency, compared to the region's total population
- **30% based** on the number of visits an agency hosted from individuals who live outside the agency's jurisdiction (non-local visits)

## EXAMPLES OF METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS CAPITAL SYSTEM PROJECTS

- Improve or replace trails, boardwalks, and connectors
- Develop, rehabilitate, and renovate parks, facilities, and features
- Increase accessibility to parks, trails, and gathering spaces
- Increase interpretation and education opportunities for all park users
- Enhance playgrounds, water activities, and recreation areas
- Restore natural resources



10 Twin Cities regional parks implementing agencies



**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 Parks and Trails 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)



**58 REGIONAL PARKS AND PARK RESERVES**



**NEARLY 500 MILES OF INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL TRAILS**



**NEARLY 66 MILLION VISITS IN 2024**



**OVER 65,000 ACRES OF LAND PROTECTED**

## For more information on the parks grant program

Visit [metro council.org/Parks/Grants-Funding/Bonding-Program.aspx](https://metro council.org/Parks/Grants-Funding/Bonding-Program.aspx)

Contact Judd Schetnan at [judd.schetnan@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:judd.schetnan@metc.state.mn.us)



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