

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

**This bill establishes a pilot program for a regional dog park permit and appropriates funding to the Metropolitan Council for competitive matching grants to local units of government within the Metropolitan Council's geographic jurisdiction. Matched 1:2, the grants provide for the establishment, expansion, and maintenance of dog parks in regional parks. State appropriations come from the parks and trails portion of the voter-approved 3/8 percent statewide sales tax increase.**

### Section

- 1 Pilot regional dog park permit program.** Requires the Metropolitan Council to establish and administer a regional dog park permit program within its Twin Cities metropolitan area jurisdiction. This area includes the counties of Anoka; Carver; Dakota excluding the city of Northfield; Hennepin excluding the cities of Hanover and Rockford; Ramsey; Scott excluding the city of New Prague; and Washington. A county, city, or town that receives grant funding must allow a person possessing a valid regional dog park permit to use any dog park that is part of the regional park and open space system.
- 2 Dog park matching grant pilot program.** Directs the Metropolitan Council to award matching funds to metropolitan counties, cities, and towns for the establishment, expansion, or maintenance of dog parks within the metropolitan area regional park and open space system. No dog park may receive more than \$40,000 in a fiscal year. A participating local unit of government must provide \$1 of matching funds or in-kind contributions for each \$2 of state funding received. In addition, the local unit of government must post certain dog park rules and signage indicating that the park was funded by the people of Minnesota via a constitutional amendment. Requires the Metropolitan Council to rank eligible applicants according to specified criteria, seek the advice of its parks and open space commission and report to the legislature by January 15, 2011.

- 3**      **Dog park permit and grants.** Appropriates \$800,000 over the fiscal years 2010-2011 biennium from the constitutionally-dedicated parks and trails fund to the Metropolitan Council to carry out the programs in sections 1 and 2.
- 4**      **Application.** Specifies that sections 1 to 3 apply to Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.