



## Resolution 2019-310

Resolution Authorizing the Superintendent to Submit, in Priority Order, 26Th Avenue North River Access and Trail Connection (\$3 Million); Water Works Riverside Phase (\$5 Million); Grand Rounds Missing Link Implementation (\$12.3 Million); and the North Commons Regional Vision (\$11.25 Million) for a Total of \$31.55 Million to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for the 2020 State of Minnesota (State) Capital Budget

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of Minneapolis Parks;

Whereas, The MPRB seeks to secure funding for capital improvements to Minneapolis Parks to meet the needs of park visitors;

Whereas, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) is requesting final capital budget requests by October 2019 for the 2020 State capital budget preparations;

Whereas, MPRB staff have evaluated project alternatives, considered past requests, and consulted with partners, MPRB's legislative team, and Commissioners; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Superintendent to submit, in priority order, 26th Avenue North River Access and Trail Connection (\$3 Million); Water Works Riverside Phase (\$5 Million); Grand Rounds Missing Link Implementation (\$12.3 Million); and the North Commons Regional Vision (\$11.25 Million) for a total of \$31.55 million to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for the 2020 State of Minnesota (State) Capital Budget;

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Legislative & Intergovernmental Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder,

DATE: September 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Superintendent to Submit, in Priority Order, 26Th Avenue North River Access and Trail Connection (\$3 Million); Water Works Riverside Phase (\$5 Million); Grand Rounds Missing Link Implementation (\$12.3 Million); and the North Commons Regional Vision (\$11.25 Million) for a Total of \$31.55 Million to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for the 2020 State of Minnesota (State) Capital Budget

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) office is requesting that local government agencies submit final requests in October for the State’s 2020 capital budget development. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) staff submitted preliminary requests based on the current Board adopted legislative agenda but may revise these requests for 2020 with additional board approval. To prepare for the opportunity to submit final capital requests, MPRB staff presented to the Commissioners, on July 17, 2019, the preliminary proposals along with several additional possibilities. Based on that guidance from the Board, staff is recommending submission of the following four projects to the State as MPRB’s 2020 bond request.

### **26<sup>th</sup> Avenue North: Creating Connections in North Minneapolis**

This request is for \$3 million dollars to design and construct a river access point and overlook at the eastern terminus of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. It would also include a short (less than ¼ mile) trail connection south from that access point to Ole Olson Park, effectively completing a trail loop of approximately 40 miles. This funding would be matched by a \$1.5 million commitment from the Minneapolis Parks Foundation. Funding would be used for acquisition, design, and construction.

### **Water Works Riverside Phase**

This request is for \$5 million to create the second (Riverside) phase of Water Works, a \$10.2 million park development project on the Minneapolis riverfront overlooking St. Anthony Falls. The project is located in the district once called the “grain milling capital of the world.” It is full of stone mill ruins, abandoned water power canals, railroad remnants, and a partially-developed park that receives 2.8 million visits a year (and growing fast). The visionary design is a vibrant mix of recreation, ecology, and cultural heritage. It includes:

- Redesigned pedestrian and bike trails.



- Excavation and restoration of the Cataract Mill ruins for use as a plaza.
- Excavation of the water power gatehouse in a way that creates a terraced plaza for events/performances and interactive fountain features.
- Creation of canoe/kayak landing or river access point.
- Shoreline enhancements combining exposure of the historic seawall with shoreline naturalization.
- Landscape enhancements focused on visitor experience, historic interpretation and habitat.

### **Grand Rounds Missing Link Implementation**

This request is for \$12,300,000 to start the first phase of development for the Grand Rounds Missing Link, a Regional Trail Search Corridor. Envisioned for more than 100 years, this multi-modal trail will connect the downtown Minneapolis riverfront to St. Anthony Parkway Regional Trail and the rest of the Grand Rounds. The project area is in the northeast portion of Minneapolis between the Mississippi River and St. Anthony Village. It is an area that has been developed with a mix of commercial, industrial, institutional, public, and residential uses. The addition of this trail and parkway link would add a regional trail and trailside amenities to areas that have been underserved by parks. The first phase of developing the Grand Rounds Missing Link includes:

- The northern Industrial Boulevard segment south of Broadway Street NE
- The southernmost segment along 27th Avenue SE
- Trail facilities through the Towerside development area in Prospect Park
- Preliminary engineering for a bridge (type, size, and location study).

### **North Commons Regional Vision (Phase 1)**

This request is for \$11,300,000 to begin implementation of a major vision for North Commons Park that will serve the entire northside and welcome the region during arts happenings, sports tournaments, and community gatherings. This community-driven vision was established during the North Service Area Master Plan process and was adopted by the Board of Commissioners. Community advocates are currently working to build coalitions around the implementation of the vision and raise funds to contribute to the project. This request would be a first phase of implementation and assumes significant community match to go along with the \$1.8 million allocated in MPRB's CIP. The request asks for 60% of the funding for the following elements of the North Commons Master Plan:

- Renovation / relocation of the water park
- A new community building
- New parking.



These are the necessary first steps to create the workable base of the vision. The premier athletic field, seasonal dome, refrigerated hockey rink, and other plan elements in the south half of the park would occur in future phases.

Several other projects were previously submitted or were raised for discussion by staff on July 17, 2019. These projects do not appear in this action for various reasons, as outlined below:

- Mississippi River Public Access and Habitat Restoration: This project, submitted for several years now for state bonding, has never gained traction in the legislature. A similar but better defined project for habitat restoration and wildlife (mussel) reintroduction in Above the Falls and North Mississippi Regional Parks has been well received in the LCCMR funding program. The current recommendation by that committee is that this MPRB- and DNR-led project receive \$1.8 million during next year's legislative session. Though this funding is not absolutely certain, LCCMR seems to be a more appropriate funding source for this work. Staff is recommending focusing on LCCMR for funding this effort and prioritizing other projects for state bonds.
- Upper Harbor Terminal: This project was funded by the legislature in 2018.
- CP Rail Acquisition for the Luce Line Regional Trail: MPRB staff is currently working with a broad stakeholder group to determine the most advantageous way to acquire this corridor. This effort may involve some combination of public and private funds and will likely not be a simple transaction wherein the land purchased by MPRB and/or its partners stays in public ownership. That complexity and the possibility of other funding sources makes state bonding not the most optimal source. Staff is recommending keeping this project off the bonding list but continuing to work on the acquisition through the current interagency collaboration taking place.

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends authorizing the Superintendent to submit, in priority order, 26th Avenue North River Access and Trail Connection (\$3 Million); Water Works Riverside Phase (\$5 Million); Grand Rounds Missing Link Implementation (\$12.3 Million); and the North Commons Regional Vision (\$11.25 Million) for a total of \$31.55 million to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for the 2020 State of Minnesota (State) Capital Budget.

This action is supported by the following vision and goal statements in the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan.

**Vision Theme 3:** Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs.



**Goal:** Parks shape an evolving city.  
**Goal:** Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility and beauty.

Prepared By: Adam Arvidson, Manager of Public Engagement & Citywide Planning, Strategic Planning

Review:

Cindy Anderson	Completed	08/20/2019 10:24 AM	
Adam Arvidson	Completed	08/20/2019 11:54 AM	
Michael Schroeder	Completed	08/23/2019 9:23 AM	
Jennifer Ringold	Completed	08/25/2019 9:21 AM	
Al Bangoura	Completed	08/28/2019 12:28 PM	
Legislative & Intergovernmental Committee	Pending		09/04/2019 5:20 PM