

Resolution 12 - 02
More Equitable Distribution of Legacy Amendment Funds

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) is an appointed body established to advise the Mayor and City Council on long-range and Citywide matters related to Parks and Recreation, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy State Constitutional Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to add 3/8 of 1 percent sales tax and dedicate the proceeds to Outdoor Heritage, Clean Water, Parks and Trails, and Arts and Cultural Heritage, was approved by voters in 2008 and began July 1, 2009, for a period of 25 years, to supplement but not supplant traditional sources of funding, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Trails portion of the Legacy Amendment comprises 14.25 percent of the total of funds generated by the Legacy Amendment, and

WHEREAS, the Legacy Amendment is projected to generate more than \$200 million per year for 25 years, depending on economic conditions, and

WHEREAS, 64 percent of this sales tax is generated in the seven-county Twin Cities Metro area by 54 percent of the State's population, with 36 percent generated in Greater Minnesota by 46 percent of the State's population, and

WHEREAS, Metro Regional Parks is a 40+ year system with 90 percent of its operations funding generated from local property taxes and fees, and

WHEREAS, there were a documented 40.867 million visits to the Metro Regional Parks System in 2010 with more than 40 percent of those visits by non-local visitors, and

WHEREAS, an estimated 10 million visits are made to DNR and non-DNR outstate parks and trails annually, or 1/4 of Metro regional park visits, and

WHEREAS, the FY 2010/11 Parks & Trails Legacy bill splits Metro / DNR / statewide grants as 43 / 43 / 14 percent, and

WHEREAS, the FY 2012/13 Parks & Trails Legacy bill allocates 41 percent to the DNR, / 40 percent to Metro / and 19 percent to outstate in FY 2012 and 38 percent to the DNR / 42 percent to Metro / and 20 percent to outstate in FY 2013, and

WHEREAS, estimates of actual dollars spent in the Metro and outstate Minnesota result in 59 percent spending in outstate and 41 percent in the Metro in the 2012-13 biennium, and



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission supports a more equitable distribution of Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails funds to the Metropolitan Regional Park System's ten implementing agencies — a distribution that more adequately recognizes population, where the funds are being collected, where people are recreating today and where it is predicted they will recreate in the future.

Adopted by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission on March 14, 2012:

Approved:	Yeas	<u>7</u>
	Nays	<u>0</u>
	Absent	<u>2</u>

Attested to by:

Dana Berchem
Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission



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