

Meeting: Local Taxes Advisory Task Force

Public Meeting

Date: 12/20/2023

Agenda

Task Force Meeting 1:30-4:30 p.m. – Hybrid

- Welcome and check-in (Chair Marquart) **(5 min)**
- Expert Panel Department of Revenue Q&A **(25 min)**
 - **Task Force Members should bring any outstanding clarification questions for each Revenue Unit**
 - If there are no questions for Revenue, this time will be use to provide an overview of where we are to date in the process and any outstanding items.
- Public Testimony **(45 minutes)**
 - 5 minutes per testimony
 - No Q&A between testifiers and task force members
- Work Group Activities **(50 min)**
 - Finalize criteria required for projects and regional benefit
 - Finalize authority/entity structure at each stage of tax cycle
- Stakeholder Role Play **(50 min)**
 - Wilder will review Task Force recommendations thus far in a synthesis slide
 - TF Members to identify gaps in the current proposed pathway – each member will assume the role of a different stakeholder and role play the process
- Debrief **(5 min)**
 - Follow up with Department of Revenue Panel and Parking Lot
 - Adjournment (Chair Marquart)

Parks and Trail Regional Significance Definitions

The following excerpt is from page 55 and 56 of the [Parks and Trails Legacy Plan](#). The purpose of this document is to provide members of the Local Taxes Advisory Task Force the criteria used in the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan to define a park and trail of regional significance.

Parks of Regional Significance

“Parks of regional significance must meet the first two criteria described below. Regional parks in the Seven-County Metropolitan Area must also meet the third criterion. Parks must also meet at least one of the criteria listed 4-6.

1. **Natural Resource-Based Settings and Range of Activities Offered:** The park should provide a natural setting and offer outdoor recreation facilities and activities that are primarily natural resource-based. Examples include camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, boating, canoeing, fishing, and nature study. A related measure is the range of these activities accommodated within the park (e.g., a park with a beach, campground, and boat launch facilities is more likely to attract a regional clientele than a park with only one of these facilities).
2. **Use:** Evidence that the park serves at least a regional clientele (multiple communities). Other related factors may include evidence that the facility currently or potentially may draw tourists and generate economic impact from outside the local area.
3. **Consistency:** In the Seven County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, the proposed park must be consistent with the Metropolitan Council’s Regional Parks Policy Plan or go through the proscribed amendment process. If the managing entity is applying for a Legacy Parks grant, the proposed park project must be part of a site plan, as required in the grant application, in addition to having formal approval of the relevant governing body.
4. **Size:** The park should be significant in size. In southern Minnesota, a park of 100 acres is significant. In northern Minnesota, the acreage is generally larger.
5. **Special Features:** Unique or unusual landscape features, historically or culturally significant sites, or parks containing characteristics of regional or statewide significance.
6. **Scarcity of Recreational Resources:** The park provides public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available within a reasonable distance. Examples include water-based activities, such as swimming, fishing and boating; interpretive nature trails; public campgrounds; etc.”

Trails of Regional Significance

“Trails of regional significance must meet the first two criteria described below. Regional trails in the Seven-County Metropolitan Area must also meet the third criterion. Trails must also address the other criteria, not to be understood in isolation, but in their aggregate.

1. **Regionally desirable setting:** The trail is located in a regionally desirable setting. Criteria include attractive, unusual, and/or representative landscapes, important destinations, or high-quality natural areas.
2. **High-quality opportunity and use:** The trail serves as a destination, providing high-quality recreational opportunities, attracts a regional clientele (multiple communities), potentially may draw tourists, and generates an economic impact from outside the local area. The trail should be developed and maintained to include easy access, secure parking, access to drinking water and other necessary services, and is wide enough or designed in such a way to avoid user conflict and provide a safe experience.
3. **Adequate length:** The trail provides at least an hour of outdoor recreation opportunity, or connects to other facilities that can provide at least an hour of recreation in total.
4. **Connections:** The trail currently or potentially will link to an existing trail of regional or statewide significance. This includes providing connections between significant trails, or connecting communities/ community facilities to these trails. The regional trail cannot be entirely contained within a regional park unit.
5. **Scarcity of Trail Resources:** The trail provides a high-quality recreational opportunity not otherwise available within a reasonable distance.
6. **Consistency:** For the Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, the proposed trail must be consistent with the Metropolitan Council’s Regional Parks Policy Plan or must go through the proscribed amendment process. If the managing entity is applying for a Legacy Trails grant, the proposed trail project must be part of a site plan, as required in the grant application, in addition to having formal approval of the relevant governing body.