

Community Development Grants

Overview and Annual Impact



July 2026

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Community Development Grants Overview



Community Development Grant Programs

Livable Communities

Local Planning Assistance

Regional Parks and Trails

Special Programs

Grants Portfolio

Details

- 435 active grants
- Over \$320 million portfolio
- 10-14 annual solicitations managed by program staff and supported by CD grant unit staff
- Staff ensure compliance with all federal, state, local and Council grant requirements through ongoing management and monitoring of individual grants

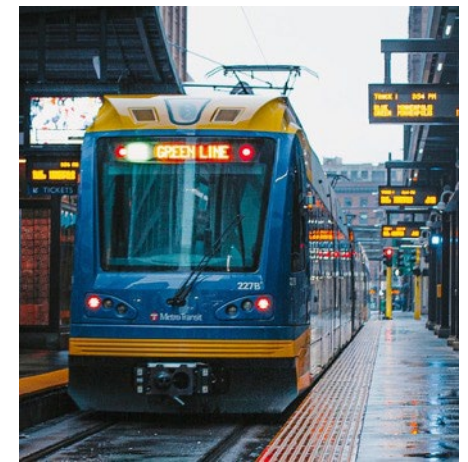


Livable Communities

Program Overview

- The LCA provides funding for communities to invest in local economic revitalization, workforce housing initiatives, and development or redevelopment that connects different land uses and transportation.
- Opportunities are supported by the Livable Communities Act (LCA), adopted by the Minnesota Legislature in 1995.
- 88 participating communities are eligible to compete for funding from all LCA categories

From 1996 through the most recent 2025 funding rounds, the Council has awarded 1,463 grants totaling over \$560 million in Livable Communities funds. These grants have leveraged billions of dollars in private and other public investment



Livable Communities Program



LCA Grant Programs

- Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA)
- LCDA – Transit Oriented Development (LCDA-TOD)
- Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)
- Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA)
- Pre-Development Grants
- Policy and Program Development Program
- Affordable Homeownership

Livable Communities: Current Portfolio

Through Q4 2025

- Approximately 170 active grant projects totaling nearly \$100 million
- \$13.3 million spent on projects
- \$86 million remaining to be spent
- Funding is helping to create jobs, affordable housing and private investment in areas around the region



Livable Communities: Project Spotlight

Pre-Development Immigrant Opportunity Center – Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders (CAPI)

Program: LCA Pre-Development
Applicant: City of Brooklyn Center
Award Amount: \$296,000

Project Description: CAPI aims to expand its Immigrant Opportunity Center campus by developing the adjacent .84-acre parcel. The envisioned two-story mixed-use retail/commercial space will house CAPI's Financial Opportunity Center, tenant space for BIPOC-led nonprofit partners, community event and training spaces, and a technology and resource center alongside a childcare business incubator.



Livable Communities: Project Spotlight



Wakota Crossing

Program: TBRA – Site Investigation

Applicant: City of South Saint Paul

Award Amount: \$44,400

Project Description: The 36-acre commercial site includes a service garage, filling station, weighing scale, and vacant buffer land. Historically, the site was used for municipal sewage treatment and as a dump. Potential contaminants of concern based on recent investigations of the property and adjacent parcels include metals (arsenic, lead), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE), petroleum related impacts, and diesel-range organics (DRO) in the soil; petroleum impacts and non-petroleum impacts from an adjacent site in the groundwater; and methane and non-petroleum VOCs in the soil vapor.

Livable Communities: Project Spotlight



Wadaag Commons

Program: LCDA – TOD Development

Applicant: City of Minneapolis

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Total Housing Units: 39

Jobs: 3

Project Description: Dense small-site redevelopment including affordable housing. The project is the last in a coordinated multi-phase redevelopment of land around Franklin Avenue Station Area. Provides increased housing choice including larger units and unique partnerships with a neighborhood-scale redevelopment strategy that combines affordable family housing with urban food production.

Regional Parks and Trails

Program Overview

- The Council administers a variety of funding sources and grant programs for the betterment of the Regional Parks System
- Funds are awarded or passed through to the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies:
 - Anoka County
 - City of Bloomington
 - Carver County
 - Dakota County
 - Minneapolis Parks and Rec Board
 - Ramsey County
 - City of St. Paul
 - Scott County
 - Three Rivers Park District
 - Washington County

From state fiscal year 2010 through the last fiscal year 2026, the Council has awarded over 940 grants, totaling over \$598 million to the ten regional park implementing agencies.



Regional Parks and Trails Program



Grant Programs

- Parks and Trails Legacy Fund
- Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund
- Regional Parks Bonding
- Competitive Equity Grants
- Operation and Maintenance
- Modernization
- Hazard Tree Removal/Ash Replacement/Tree Planting

Regional Parks and Trails: Current Portfolio



Through Q4 2025

- Approximately 222 active grant projects totaling over \$200 million
- \$57.8 million spent on projects
- \$142.2 million remaining to be spent
- \$26.8 million in FY26 funding available for new projects currently under development by implementing agencies
- Funding is helping to improve facilities, acquire land, engage with the public and advance equity in the Regional Parks and Trails system

Regional Parks and Trails: Project Spotlight



Keller Regional Park – Tuj Lub Courts

Program: Parks and Trails Legacy Fund and
Competitive Equity Grant Program

Applicant: Ramsey County

Award Amounts: \$2,708,064 + \$200,000

Project Description: Construction for enhanced Tuj Lub and Sepak Takraw court infrastructure, site and utility improvements, site amenities, stormwater management, wayfinding, and restoration. Partnership between the Hmong Tuj Lub Association of MN and Ramsey County. This project will make these the premier courts in the Metro Area.

Regional Parks and Trails: Project Spotlight

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park - Redevelopment

Program: Parks and Trails Legacy Fund,
State Pass-Through Bond Funding
Applicant: Three Rivers Park District
Award Amounts: \$21,531,078 + \$8,000,000

Project Description: Significant park improvements including: Mississippi Gateway Center; Welcome & Event Plaza; Mini Mississippi Play & Education Feature; Nature's Highline Trail & Tree House; Picnicking; Nature Interpretation Nodes; Nature Play Areas; Site Work, Parking & Bathrooms; Natural Resource Restoration; ADA River Access & Outdoor Classroom; Drop-off, Temporary Parking & Non-motorized Boat Launch; Fishing Improvements; Trails; Maintenance Center & Outreach Hub; Learning Stations; Paved & non-paved Trails Realignment and Reconstruction.



Regional Parks and Trails: Project Spotlight



Lake Elmo Park Reserve – Swim Pond Play Area

Program: Regional Parks Bonding, Parks and Trails
Legacy Fund & Modernization

Applicant: Washington County

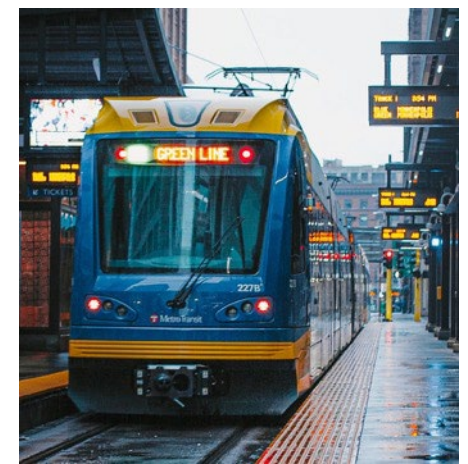
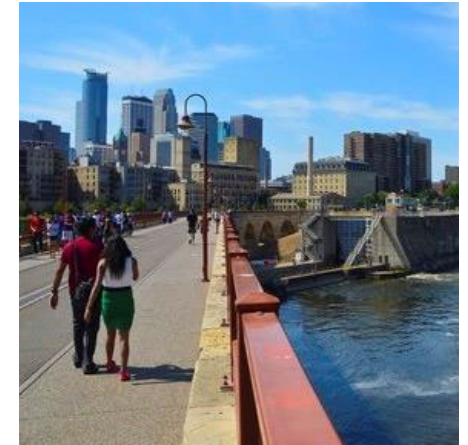
Award Amounts: \$390,097 + \$1,053,681 + \$700,000

Project Description: Design, engineer, construct play area located near the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond. Improvements include site work, replacing equipment, improved lighting, landscaping, existing parking lot upgrades, recreational space, and access improvements.

Local Planning Assistance

Program Overview

- Planning assistance grants are made available on a decennial basis to assist communities with updating their local comprehensive plans.
- The Council establishes eligibility to apply for grants to target communities most in need of financial assistance to complete their local plans
- Grants are not competitive
- Grants last issued in 2016
 - 104 eligible communities
 - Ranged from \$10,000 - \$84,000



Local Planning Assistance Program



2026 Grant Round

- 67 eligible communities
 - 60 sewerer
 - 4 unsewered
 - 3 counties/consortium (Scott, Carver, Dakota consortium)
- \$3,768,000 in total available funding
- Applications opened in May
- 17 applications initiated as of early July and are open to eligible communities until November
- Grantees must submit their 2050 Comprehensive Plans by 12/31/2028

Community Tree Planting Grant Program



Program Overview

- Statute 473.355 established the Community Tree Planting Grant Program with cities, counties, townships, and regional park implementing agencies named as eligible recipients
- \$2.5M appropriated in the 2024 Legislative Session
- 14 grants awarded in June 2025
 - Over \$5M in requests
- 2025 Session appropriated \$1.9M in G.O. bonds/General Fund
- 2026 Session appropriated \$5M in G.O. bonds
- September 2026 next competitive application will make \$3.4M available
 - 2027 round \$3.5M available

HUD Pathways to Reducing Obstacles (PRO) Housing Grants

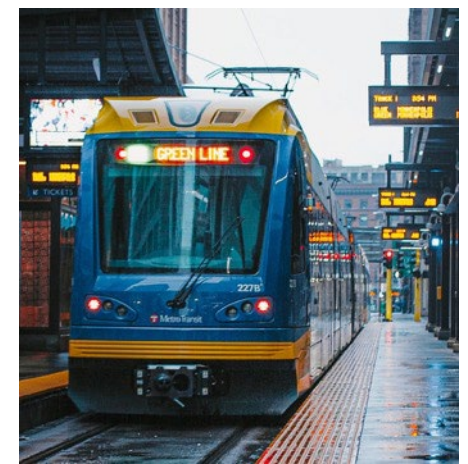
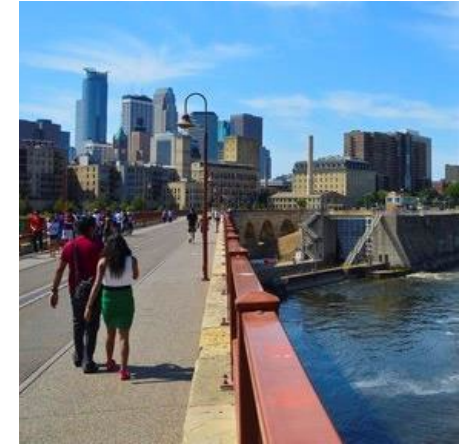
Program Overview

FFY 2023 Grant - \$4M

- Council Technical Assistance and Program Coordination
 - RFP being developed for a consultant to deliver some elements
- Subgrants for Policy/Programming grants to local governments
 - 4 subgrants underway \$161,000
 - 6 subgrants pending approval \$439,000
- Subgrant for project partner Ramsey County \$1.3M

FFY 2024 Grant - \$5M

- Council Technical Assistance and Program Coordination
- Subgrants for Policy/Programming grants to local governments
- Subgrants to key regional project partners (TBD)



Legislative Updates



2026 Legislative Outcomes Impacting Grants

Community Tree Planting:

- \$5M in state general obligation bonds

Regional Parks and Trails:

- \$2.414M Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation for Regional Park and Trail system land acquisition, matched with:
 - \$1.609M in Council bonds
 - \$804,667 in implementing agency funds
- \$10M in state general obligation bonds, matched with:
 - \$6.67M in Council bonds

State Pass-Through

- \$27.8M for 8 pass-through legislatively directed projects



Thank You

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