

Subject Parks and Trails Fund

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## Overview

This bill would change the requirements for how money from the parks and trails fund (one of the four funds established by the “Legacy Amendment”) is spent, including requiring the money be spent to achieve certain outcomes, modifying the way money appropriated for metropolitan regional parks and trails is allocated, establishing a peer review committee to review funding proposals, and adding plan and reporting requirements of entities receiving funds.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p><b>Expenditures; accountability.</b></p> <p>Requires a project or program funded with money from the parks and trails fund to include measurable outcomes included in the 25-year parks and trails legacy plan, a plan required by the legislature and completed in 2011 that established for strategic directions: connecting people and the outdoors; acquiring land and creating opportunities; taking care of what we have; and coordinating among partners.</p>  |
| 2 | <p><b>Metropolitan area distribution formula.</b></p> <p>Modifies the way money from the parks and trails fund appropriated to the Metropolitan Council for metropolitan regional parks and trails is allocated. Under current law, the money is distributed to implementing agencies according to a formula in statute. The bill would distribute the money based on the recommendations of a technical peer review committee (detailed in the next section), and allocate the money for grants as follows: 50 percent to achieve outcomes in existing natural resource plans; 40 percent for grants to achieve the outcomes in the 25-year parks and trails legacy plan; and ten percent would be for land acquisition as dedicated under current law.</p> |
| 3 | <p><b>Proposal requirements; technical peer review committee.</b></p> <p>Requires project proposals to include a stated purpose connected to the parks and trails fund’s constitutional mandate and the natural resources plan required under</p>  |

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	<p>the previous section, a timeline, and potential outcomes to be achieved. Specifies the make up of the technical peer review committee reviewing the proposals and establishes requirements for the peer reviewers. Requires an entity receiving an appropriation to submit an accomplishment plan and final report to the peer review committee and specifies the requirements of the accomplishment plan. States that money may not be spent until the peer review committee has approved the accomplishment plan. Allows up to one-tenth of one percent of the parks and trails fund to be used for the technical peer reviews.</p>
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