



Council Agenda Item 25-0484R

MEETING DATE: 06/16/2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT 24617 WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT EXPANDING RECREATIONAL ACCESS ALONG THE ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY.

SUBMITTED BY: Allison Brooks, Project Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

November 25, 2019 (19-0784R) – Approved the Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Mini Master Plan and authorized implementation as funding becomes available. The trail's plan describes the extension of the trail and improvement of facilities and water access sites. The extension and improvements are intended to increase public riverfront use and connect seven St. Louis River Corridor neighborhoods with the multi-use trail.

May 23, 2022 (22-0429R) – Authorized application to the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources for up to \$2,750,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (“ENRTF”) to provide improved recreational access to the restored St. Louis River Estuary.

August 14, 2023 (23-0616R) – Authorized the acceptance of a \$1,375,000 ENRTF grant from the MN DNR to support recreational access along the St. Louis River Estuary.

December 18, 2023 (23-0982R) – Authorized the first amendment to agreement 24617 with the MN DNR to extend the term of the ENRTF grant to June 30, 2026. This first amendment aligned the contracted expiration date with the end date of the approved work plan for the grant.

July 29, 2024 (24-0571R) – Authorized a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to accept a financial award of \$1,275,000 to support programming and the extension of Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail.

BACKGROUND: This is the second amendment to the ENRTF grant (City contract no. 24617) to extend the expiration date to September 30, 2027, which aligns with the expiration date of the federal funding involved in the project. The amendment does not alter the amount of grant funding awarded nor change the project scope.

The extension is necessary to provide additional time to secure all required federal and state approvals for a larger \$6 million project, which will enhance public access to the restored St. Louis River Estuary by:

1. Renewing and enhancing the existing riverfront trail – Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail.
2. Extending Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail from its current terminus at the Riverside neighborhood to the Smithville, Grand Avenue Estates, and Morgan Park neighborhoods.
3. Enhancing connected water access at Munger Landing to supplement the motorized boat access there now with facilities for walking, cycling, picnicking, paddling, and shore fishing.
4. Improve facilities at Blackmer Park to facilitate trail access.

The larger project will be funded by approximately \$5.4 million in previously awarded federal and state

grants, including this \$1,375,000 ENRTF grant, and approximately \$600,000 from the City's St. Louis River Corridor half-and-half tax – a one-half of one percent increment in the City's tourism taxes that, per state law, may only be used to improve publicly owned outdoor recreation facilities in a designated area near the St. Louis River.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Additional time will ensure that the grant funds can be used to deliver the project. If the amendment is not approved, then the City is subject to the current expiration date of June 30, 2025, which is unattainable. The ENRTF grant funding would be forfeited and additional City funds would be required to substitute these grant funds to complete the project as contracted under other state and federal grant agreements.

OPTIONS: Authorize acceptance of the amendment to extend the term of the grant or forego authorization to decline the amendment which would forfeit these funds and jeopardize completion of the project.

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize acceptance of this second amendment.

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A: Amendment #2 for Grant Contract Agreement