

request and therefore, also in the state's grant application for regional parks has fee title.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution authorizes the application to and, if offered, acceptance of a \$1,527,909 grant from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission to support construction of the Grand Avenue Nordic Center at Spirit Mountain Recreation Area. In order to be considered for funding, the granting agency requires passage of this resolution as well as approval of the attached Memorandum.

The application seeks full funding to support construction of the Grand Avenue Nordic Center, including completion of the final trail loop (loop III), connector trail to existing cross-country ski trails at the top of Spirit Mountain, snowmaking equipment, pumps, snowguns and lighting. The Grand Avenue Nordic ski trails provide a dependable extended season venue for recreational skiing, youth activities and regional high school events, including the potential to host Statewide Nordic finals. The project will become a regional center of activity for cross country skiing by extending the season early and late and providing skiing when there is inadequate natural snow. Lighting provides the opportunity for early morning and night skiing during a time of year when natural light is limited during the non-working hours. If approved, grant funds would be available in July 2020 and have to be spent by June 2023.

Project partners have committed to provide a total non-state match of \$570,103. More than 90% of the non-state match will come from the federal government, Duluth Cross Country Ski Club, and Spirit Mountain Recreation Authority. The City of Duluth will contribute a maximum of \$50,000 drawn exclusively from City funds previously dedicated to Grand Avenue Nordic Center that were not spent in Phase I of the project. In the likely event that the state provides less than full funding, matching contributions from Duluth Cross Country Ski Club, Spirit Mountain Recreation Authority, and the City of Duluth will decrease in proportion to the size of the total state grant.