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Metropolitan Council - Environment

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AT A GLANCE

- 3,186,349 residents in the seven-county area in 2021 (Met Council April 2021 estimate based on 2020 Census)
- 35.9 million transit rides provided by the Council in 2021
- 1.8 million rides on Metro Mobility in 2021
- 250 million gallons of wastewater treated daily
- 110 communities provided with wastewater treatment service in 2021
- Nine treatment plants and 600 miles of regional sewers
- 64.9 million regional park visits in 2021
- 119 regional parks/trails, park reserves, and special recreation features; totaling 55,000 acres, plus 400 miles of interconnected trails
- 7,200 low-income households provided affordable housing by the Council's Metro HRA in 2021
- From 2020 to 2040 the Council forecasts the region will grow by:
 - 485,000 more people
 - 210,000 more households
 - 213,000 more jobs

PURPOSE

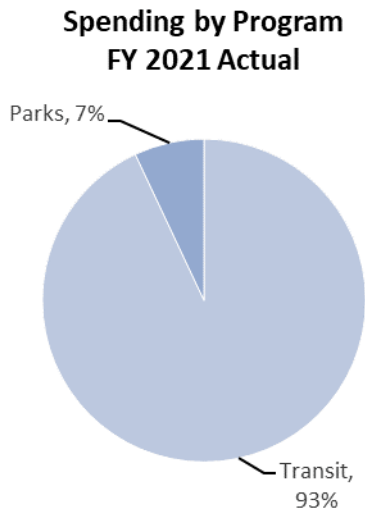
The Metropolitan Council is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services for the Twin Cities metropolitan region. The Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous region in partnership with more than 180 communities and seven counties. We provide cost-effective transit and wastewater services, assist households with low and moderate incomes to find affordable housing, and support communities as they plan for anticipated growth.

As our region grows and its demographics change, the Council is working in partnership with communities to ensure we are prepared to support the continued growth of our region. As the economic engine of the state, the metro region's health and vitality has a statewide impact. Through our planning activities and the provision of regional services, we contribute to the following statewide outcomes:

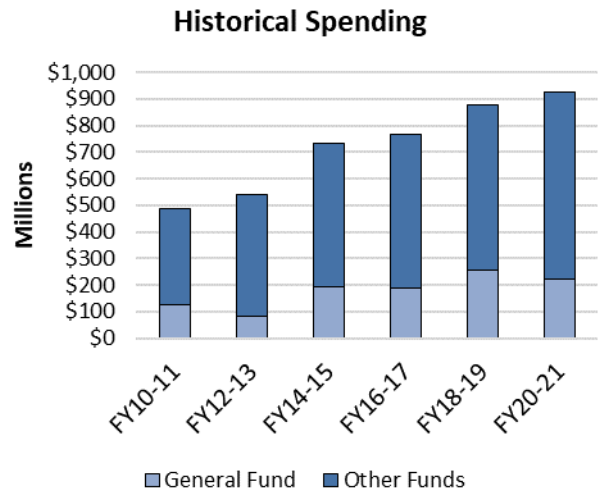
- A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities
- A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources
- Sustainable options to safely move people, goods, services, and information
- A livable and attractive place for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities to call home and prosper.

The charts on the next page show appropriations to the Metropolitan Council recorded in the state's financial system. The Council's unified operating budget for calendar year 2022 is \$1.235 billion. State appropriations for transit and parks operations and water supply planning provided approximately 40% of agency funding in CY22. The majority of our operating funding comes from charges for services (wastewater fees and passenger fares), federal funds, property taxes and local funds.

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

STRATEGIES

Our governing body – the 17-member Metropolitan Council – plays a key convening role, bringing together communities to develop policies and a shared vision for the region. To achieve our mission, we carry out planning initiatives and provide essential services to the region.

Planning Initiatives

- Our Thrive MSP 2040 initiative engaged residents to create a framework for a shared vision for a prosperous, equitable, and livable region.
- Our regional planning initiatives encompass transportation, parks, water resources, community planning, and housing.

Transportation

- Our Metro Transit bus and rail systems provide more than 35 million rides every year, getting people to work, school and services, and managing road congestion so businesses can move their goods efficiently.
- Our Metro Mobility and Transit Link services transport people who are unable to use regular-route transit service.
- Our Transportation planners play a key role in collaborating with thriving communities to create our vision for roads, airports, and transit, to ensure effective and cost-efficient investments.

Parks

- We partner with 10 park implementing agencies to plan, acquire land, and develop facilities for regional parks and trails, preserving natural resources and providing recreational opportunities throughout the region.

Clean water and wastewater treatment

- We foster a safe and healthy environment through our award-winning and cost-effective wastewater treatment services, water supply planning and water quality monitoring initiatives.

Planning and development

- Our Livable Communities grants help fund affordable housing; clean polluted land for redevelopment; and create new models for livable, walkable, connected neighborhoods and transit-oriented developments, stimulating and leveraging private investment and increasing communities' tax base.
- We coordinate local communities' local comprehensive plans, providing technical assistance and resources to ensure coordinated, orderly and efficient development in the region.

Housing

- Our Housing Policy Plan identifies regional housing needs and priorities, connects housing to other Council system plans, and provides guidance for local housing planning.
- Our Metro Housing and Redevelopment Authority provides housing stability through rent assistance for more than 7,200 low-income residents in nearly 100 communities

The Metropolitan Council supports the following priorities by:

Children and families

- Assists families with Housing Choice Vouchers to find housing in areas of opportunity, while providing them with supportive services to help achieve self-sufficiency and success in their new neighborhoods.
- Through Metro Transit's bus pass program, provides students with a convenient and affordable way to get to jobs, internships, classes, and education events before or after school hours.

Equity and inclusion

- Designates a portion of its regional parks bonds that support regional park implementing agencies to carry out capital projects that strengthen equitable use of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents – across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability.
- Provides about 1.8 million rides annually to people with disabilities through the Metropolitan Council's Metro Mobility service.
- Through its urban scholars program, provides summer internships that enable students from diverse backgrounds to gain critical real-world experience through mentorship, guided projects, and leadership-development workshops.

Thriving communities

- Provides cities with grants, totaling \$400 million over the life of the program, that support innovative development and redevelopment that links housing, jobs, and services and demonstrate efficient and cost-effective use of land and infrastructure.
- Provides more than 35 million rides annually through its Metro Transit operations on a combined network of regular-route buses, light rail and commuter rail, thereby supporting the travel needs of the region's residents and local economies.
- Awards funding and develops an overall plan for the metropolitan area's 55,000-acre system of 63 regional parks, park reserves, and special recreation features as well as 400 miles of interconnected trails – all of which attract nearly 65 million visits annually.

Fiscal accountability and measurable results

- Receives the highest possible ratings from Moody's and Standard and Poor's credit ratings agencies.
- Has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for 38 consecutive years.

Minnesota's environment

- Treats and cleans an average of 250 million gallons of wastewater from 2.7 million residents daily at rates 35% lower than peer regions across the country, while earning state and national awards for environmental achievements.
- Is developing a climate action plan for our operations to reduce the Council's contributions to the region's greenhouse gas emissions, adapt our facilities and infrastructure to existing and foreseeable climate impacts, and ensure the sustainability of the region's investments over the long term.
- Continues to advance solar energy through the Council's subscriptions to community solar gardens on and off Council land, with solar capacity under contract equivalent to the energy needed by 3,000 homes for a year.

The Metropolitan Council supports achievement of the following goals by:

Housing stability for all Minnesotans

- Provides affordable housing opportunities to about 7,200 households in the Twin Cities region through its Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Creating an inclusive workplace

- Has completed a self-evaluation of Council facilities to identify barriers to its programs and services for people with disabilities.

Hiring and workforce development

- Conducts the Metro Transit Mechanic-Technician Program, in coordination with Twin Cities Rise! which provides a customized degree program at Hennepin Technical College for participants, who continue to work full-time as mechanic-technician interns at Metro Transit.
- Provides summer internships under the Council's urban scholars program, which enable students from diverse backgrounds to gain critical real-world experience through mentorship, guided projects, and leadership-development workshops
- Partners with the Painter's Union, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and St. Paul Technical College to hire and train Environment Services industrial painters and interceptor workers from BIPOC and underrepresented communities.

Advancing equitable public contracting

- Conducts a sheltered-market program under the Council's underutilized-business program and establishes internal purchasing goals for the Council organization.
- Engages an expanding pool of eligible firms through certification under the Council's underutilized business program and increases access to capacity-building resources for firms owned by women, people who are African American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-Pacific, subcontinent Asian Americans, veterans, and people with disabilities.
- Increases the participation of women and minority owned businesses in the award of federally assisted contracts through the disadvantaged business enterprise program.

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 473 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=473>) provides the legal authority for Metropolitan Council.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Enacted Budget	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>								
1000 - General	2,540	2,682	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,540	23,290	2,540
2050 - Environment & Natural Resources	617	2,040		3,250				
2108 - Metro Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu	6,600	6,600	7,450	7,450	7,450	7,450	8,950	8,950
2302 - Clean Water	1,375	1,375	1,544	1,544			1,875	1,875
2303 - Parks and Trails	19,819	20,277	21,712	22,149			28,572	25,524
3015 - ARP-State Fiscal Recovery			133	467				
Total	30,951	32,974	33,379	37,400	9,990	9,990	62,687	38,889
Biennial Change				6,854		(50,799)		30,797
Biennial % Change				11		(72)		44
Enacted Budget Change from Base								81,596
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								408

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base FY24FY25		Enacted Budget FY24FY25	
1000 - General								
Direct Appropriation	2,540	2,682	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,540	23,290	2,540
Expenditures	2,540	2,682	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,540	23,290	2,540
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(142)		0		20,750
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(3)		0		408
Enacted Budget Change from Base								20,750
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								408

2050 - Environment & Natural Resources

Balance Forward In	2,728	2,111	1,000	3,250				
Direct Appropriation		1,000	2,250					
Cancellations		71						
Balance Forward Out	2,111	1,000	3,250					
Expenditures	617	2,040		3,250				
Biennial Change in Expenditures				593		(3,250)		(3,250)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				22				
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								

2108 - Metro Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu

Direct Appropriation	6,600	6,600	7,450	7,450	7,450	7,450	8,950	8,950
Expenditures	6,600	6,600	7,450	7,450	7,450	7,450	8,950	8,950
Biennial Change in Expenditures				1,700		0		3,000
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				13		0		20
Enacted Budget Change from Base								3,000
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								20

2302 - Clean Water

Direct Appropriation	1,375	1,375	1,544	1,544	0	0	1,875	1,875
Expenditures	1,375	1,375	1,544	1,544			1,875	1,875
Biennial Change in Expenditures				338		(3,088)		662
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				12		(100)		21
Enacted Budget Change from Base								3,750
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base FY24 FY25		Enacted Budget FY24 FY25	
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2303 - Parks and Trails

Direct Appropriation	19,819	20,277	21,712	22,149	0	0	28,572	25,524
Expenditures	19,819	20,277	21,712	22,149			28,572	25,524
Biennial Change in Expenditures				3,765		(43,861)		10,235
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				9		(100)		23
Enacted Budget Change from Base								54,096
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								

3015 - ARP-State Fiscal Recovery

Balance Forward In				467				
Direct Appropriation			600					
Balance Forward Out			467					
Expenditures			133	467				
Biennial Change in Expenditures				600		(600)		(600)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						(100)		(100)
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2023 Appropriations	2,540	2,540	2,540	5,080
Forecast Base	2,540	2,540	2,540	5,080
Change Items				
Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails		9,000		9,000
Metro Parks Maintenance Increase		6,000		6,000
City of Newport Wastewater Collection System Capital Improvements		2,750		2,750
Emerald Ash Borer Hazardous Tree Replacement		1,000		1,000
White Bear Lake Area Water-Use Work Group		2,000		2,000
Total Enacted Budget	2,540	23,290	2,540	25,830
Fund: 2108 - Metro Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu				
FY2023 Appropriations	7,450	7,450	7,450	14,900
Forecast Base	7,450	7,450	7,450	14,900
Change Items				
Lottery-in-Lieu Percentage Change and New Accounts		1,500	1,500	3,000
Total Enacted Budget	7,450	8,950	8,950	17,900
Fund: 2302 - Clean Water				
FY2023 Appropriations	1,544	1,544	1,544	3,088
Base Adjustments				
One-Time Legacy Fund Appropriations		(1,544)	(1,544)	(3,088)
Forecast Base	1,544	0	0	0
Change Items				
Clean Water Legacy - Metropolitan Area Water Supply Sustainability Support		1,125	1,125	2,250
Clean Water Legacy - Water Efficiency Support Program Increase		750	750	1,500
Total Enacted Budget	1,544	1,875	1,875	3,750
Fund: 2303 - Parks and Trails				
FY2023 Appropriations	22,149	22,149	22,149	44,298
Base Adjustments				
One-Time Legacy Fund Appropriations		(22,149)	(22,149)	(44,298)
Forecast Base	22,149	0	0	0
Change Items				
Parks and Trails Legacy Appropriation Increase		28,572	25,524	54,096
Total Enacted Budget	22,149	28,572	25,524	54,096
Revenue Change Summary				

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
<i>Non-Dedicated</i>				
Fund: 2108 - Metro Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu				
Forecast Revenues	7,933	7,378	7,674	15,052
Change Items				
Lottery-in-Lieu Percentage Change and New Accounts		930	967	1,897
Total Enacted Budget	7,933	8,308	8,641	16,949

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
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Parks and Trails Legacy Appropriation Increase

This provision provides funding for projects approved by the elected representatives of each of the metropolitan parks implementing agencies. Funds are allocated by a formula specified in statute.

2303 - Parks and Trails Fund Cost (Savings)	0	28,572	25,524	54,096	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	28,572	25,524	54,096	0	0	0

Clean Water Legacy - Metropolitan Area Water Supply Sustainability Support

This provision provides funding to implement projects that address emerging threats to the drinking water supply; provide cost-effective regional solutions; leverage interjurisdictional coordination; support local implementation of water supply reliability projects; support the growing needs of community water suppliers facing challenges, including PFAS, radium, manganese, and selenium contamination as well as groundwater limitations and system reliability and resilience; and prevent degradation of groundwater resources in the metropolitan area.

2302 - Clean Water Fund Cost (Savings)	0	1,125	1,125	2,250	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	1,125	1,125	2,250	0	0	0

Clean Water Legacy - Water Efficiency Support Program Increase

This provision provides funding for water demand reduction grants to assist municipalities in the metropolitan area with implementing water demand reduction measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies.

2302 - Clean Water Fund Cost (Savings)	0	750	750	1,500	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	750	750	1,500	0	0	0

Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails

This provision provides onetime funding to modernize regional parks and trails through capital investments.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	9,000	0	9,000	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	9,000	0	9,000	0	0	0

Metro Parks Maintenance Increase

This provision provides funding for metropolitan-area regional parks operations and maintenance, which includes the provision of fire, police, maintenance, forestry, rehabilitation expenses pertaining to routine care, and the allocation of the administrative overhead costs of the regional park and open space systems.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	6,000	0	6,000	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	6,000	0	6,000	0	0	0

Lottery-in-Lieu Percentage Change and New Accounts

This provision increases the share of revenues collected in lieu of the sales tax on lottery tickets appropriated to the Metropolitan Council for environmental programs.

2108 - Metro Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu Fund Cost (Savings)	0	570	533	1,103	533	533	1,066
Revenues	0	930	967	1,897	967	967	1,934
Expenditures	0	1,500	1,500	3,000	1,500	1,500	3,000

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
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City of Newport Wastewater Collection System Capital Improvements

This provision provides onetime funding for capital improvements to the municipal wastewater collection system within the City of Newport to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration to the sanitary sewer disposal system.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	2,750	0	2,750	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	2,750	0	2,750	0	0	0

Emerald Ash Borer Hazardous Tree Replacement

This provision provides onetime funding for grants to remove hazardous trees and replace ash trees with more diverse, climate-adapted species within the metropolitan regional park system.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0

White Bear Lake Area Water-Use Work Group

This provision provides onetime funding to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the White Bear Lake area have access to sufficient safe drinking water to allow for municipal growth while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of surface water and groundwater resources to supply the needs of future generations. The plan must evaluate methods for conserving and recharging groundwater, determine which existing groundwater supply wells would be most effective and efficient in ensuring future sustainability if converted to surface water sources, identify a long-term plan for converting groundwater supply wells, and include policy and funding recommendations.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0