

CHAPTER 473G

REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

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X **473G.01 PURPOSE.** The legislature finds that the pressure of urbanization and development threatens the most valuable remaining large recreational open space areas in the metropolitan area at the same time as the need for such areas is increased. Immediate action is therefore necessary to provide funds to acquire, preserve, protect and develop regional recreational open space for public use.

[1974 c 563 s 1]

X **473G.02 DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. As used in sections 473G.01 to 473G.10, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Metropolitan area" means the area comprising the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington.

Subd. 3. "Metropolitan council" or "council" means the metropolitan council created by section 473B.02.

Subd. 4. "Park district" means a park district created under chapter 398.

Subd. 5. "Regional recreation open space" means the land and water areas determined by the metropolitan council to be of regional significance in providing for a balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan area, including but not limited to park reserves, major linear parks, and large recreation parks.

Subd. 6. "Policy plan" means a plan adopted by the council pursuant to section 473G.04 generally describing the extent, type and location of regional recreation open space needed for the metropolitan area and the timing of its acquisition and development.

Subd. 7. "Master plan" means a plan describing the boundaries of specific parks or other regional recreation open space and the nature of their development and use.

Subd. 8. "Commission" means the metropolitan parks and open space commission created by section 473G.03.

Subd. 9. "Municipality" means any city or town exercising municipal powers located in the metropolitan area, except where there exists in a city of the first class an elected park and recreation board having control of parks, parkways, playgrounds, and trees, for purposes of sections 473G.01 to 473G.10, that board shall be considered a municipality.

[1974 c 563 s 2]

X **473G.03 METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION.** Subdivision 1. **General.** A metropolitan parks and open space commission is established as an agency of the council and shall be organized and structured as provided in this section.

Subd. 2. **Membership.** The commission shall consist of eight members, plus a chairman appointed as provided in subdivision 3. The eight members shall be appointed by the council. One member shall be appointed from each of the following commission precincts:

- (1) Precinct A, consisting of council districts 1 and 2;
- (2) Precinct B, consisting of council districts 3 and 14;
- (3) Precinct C, consisting of council districts 4 and 13;
- (4) Precinct D, consisting of council districts 5 and 6;
- (5) Precinct E, consisting of council districts 7 and 8;
- (6) Precinct F, consisting of council districts 9 and 11;
- (7) Precinct G, consisting of council districts 10 and 12; and
- (8) Precinct H, consisting of council districts 15 and 16.

Subd. 3. **Chairman.** The chairman of the commission shall be appointed by

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the council and shall be the ninth member of the commission and shall meet all qualifications established for members, except the chairman need only reside within the metropolitan area. The commission chairman shall serve at the pleasure of the council for a four year term. The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the commission, if present, and shall perform all other duties and functions assigned to him by the commission or by law. The commission may appoint from among its members a vice chairman to act for the chairman during his temporary absence or disability.

Subd. 4. Qualifications. Each member shall be a resident of the precinct for which he is appointed and shall not during his terms of office as a commission member hold the office of metropolitan council member, or be a member of the metropolitan transit commission, metropolitan waste control commission, or metropolitan airports commission; or any other metropolitan agency, board, or commission hereafter established by the legislature or hold any judicial office.

Subd. 5. Terms, removal. Commencing in April 1974 the terms of members of the commission shall be as follows: members representing precincts A, B, C and D for terms ending the first Monday in January 1977, members representing precincts E, F, G and H, and the chairman, for terms ending the first Monday in January 1979. Thereafter the term of each member and the chairman shall be for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified. If the office of any commission member or the chairman becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment in the same manner the original appointment was made.

[1974 c 422 art 2 s 7; 1974 c 563 s 3]

X 473G.04 REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE SYSTEM POLICY PLAN.

Subdivision 1. The metropolitan council after consultation with the commission, municipalities, park districts and counties in the metropolitan area, and after appropriate public hearings, shall prepare and adopt not later than January 1, 1975, a long range system policy plan for regional recreation open space as part of the council's metropolitan development guide. The plan shall substantially conform to all policy statements, purposes, goals, standards, and maps in development guide sections and comprehensive plans as developed and adopted by the council pursuant to the chapters of the Minnesota Statutes directly relating to the council. The policy plan shall identify generally the areas which should be acquired by a public agency to provide a system of regional recreation open space comprising park district, county and municipal facilities which, together with state facilities, reasonably will meet the outdoor recreation needs of the people of the metropolitan area and shall establish priorities for acquisition and development. In preparing or amending the policy plan the council shall consult with and make maximum use of the expertise of the commission. The policy plan shall include a five year capital improvement program, which shall be revised periodically, and shall establish criteria and priorities for the allocation of funds for such acquisition and development.

Subd. 2. Before adopting the policy plan, the council shall submit the proposed plan to the commission for its review, and the commission shall report its comments to the council within 60 days. The council shall hold a public hearing on the proposed policy plan at such time and place in the metropolitan area as it shall determine. Not less than 15 days before the hearing, the council shall publish notice thereof in a newspaper or newspapers having general circulation in the metropolitan area, stating the date, time and place of hearing, and the place where the proposed policy plan and commission comments may be examined by any interested person. At any hearing interested persons shall be permitted to present their views on the policy plan, and the hearing may be continued from time to time. After receipt of the commission's report and hearing, the council may revise the proposed plan giving appropriate consideration to all comments received, and thereafter shall adopt the plan by resolution. An amendment to the policy plan may be proposed by the council or by the commission. At least every four years the council shall engage in a comprehensive review of the policy plan, development guide sections, comprehensive plans, capital improvement programs and other plans in substantial conformance with the requirements of subdivision 1 which have been adopted by the council.

[1974 c 563 s 4]

X 473G.05 **MASTER PLAN.** **Subdivision 1. Adoption.** Each park district located wholly or partially within the metropolitan area, and each county in the metropolitan area not wholly within a park district, shall prepare, after consultation with all affected municipalities, and submit to the metropolitan council, and from time

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to time revise and resubmit to the council, a master plan and annual budget for the acquisition and development of regional recreation open space located within the district or county, consistent with the council's policy plan.

Subd. 2. **Council review.** The metropolitan council shall review with the advice of the commission, each master plan to determine whether it is consistent with the council's policy plan. If it is not consistent, the council shall return the plan with its comments to the municipalities, park district or county for revision and resubmittal.

[1974 c 563 s 5]

X **473G.06 GRANTS.** Subdivision 1. The metropolitan council with the advice of the commission may make grants, from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes, to any municipality, park district or county located wholly or partially within the metropolitan area to cover the cost, or any portion of the cost, of acquiring or developing regional recreation open space in accordance with the policy plan; and all such agencies may enter into contracts for this purpose or rights or interests therein. The cost of acquisition shall include any payments required for relocation pursuant to sections 117.50 to 117.56. No more than 80 percent of the funds available under sections 473G.01 to 473G.10 shall be used for acquisition of regional recreation open space and no more than 30 percent shall be used for development of regional recreation open space.

Subd. 2. In order to avoid further delays in acquisition and development of regional recreational open spaces heretofore identified by the council and within existing metropolitan development guidelines, the metropolitan council is authorized to immediately make grants to acquire or develop such areas. The existing development guide sections on regional recreation open space shall continue in force and effect and shall constitute the policy plan until the adoption of revisions or modifications pursuant to section 473G.04.

[1974 c 563 s 6]

X **473G.07 SALES OF BONDS.** Subdivision 1. The metropolitan council may by resolution authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds of the council such that the amount outstanding and undischarged at any time shall not exceed \$40,000,000, for which its full faith and credit and taxing powers shall be pledged, for the acquisition and betterment of regional recreation open space in accordance with sections 473G.01 to 473G.10. The metropolitan council may also issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of refunding outstanding obligations issued hereunder. The amount of refunding bonds that may be issued from time to time shall not be subject to the dollar limitation contained in this subdivision nor shall such refunding bonds be included in computing the amount of bonds that may be issued within such dollar limitation.

Subd. 2. The metropolitan council shall sell and issue such bonds in the manner provided in chapter 475, and shall have the same powers and duties as a municipality issuing bonds under that law, except that the approval of a majority of the electors shall not be required and the net debt limitations therein shall not apply. The terms of each series of such bonds shall be fixed so that the amount of principal and interest on all outstanding and undischarged bonds, together with the bonds proposed to be issued, due in any year shall not exceed .5 mills times the assessed value of all taxable property in the metropolitan area as last finally equalized prior to a proposed issue. The bonds shall be secured in accordance with section 475.61, subdivision 1, and any taxes required for their payment shall be levied by the council, shall not affect the amount or rate of taxes which may be levied by the council for other purposes, shall be spread against all taxable property in the metropolitan area and shall not be subject to limitation as to rate or amount. Any taxes certified by the council to the county auditors for collection shall be reduced by the amount received by the council from the commissioner of finance or the federal government for the purpose of paying the principal and interest on bonds to which the levy relates. The council shall certify the fact and amount of all money so received to the county auditors, and the auditors shall reduce the levies theretofore made for such bonds in the manner and to the extent provided in section 475.61, subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. The metropolitan council shall have the power, after the authorization of bonds pursuant to this section, to provide funds immediately required for the purposes of sections 473G.01 to 473G.10, by effecting temporary loans upon such

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terms as it shall by resolution determine, evidenced by notes due in not exceeding 24 months from the date thereof, payable to the order of the lender or to the bearer, to be repaid with interest from the proceeds of such bonds when issued and delivered to the purchaser thereof. Such temporary loans may be made without public advertisement.

Subd. 4. In the event that the full faith and credit pledge of the metropolitan council for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds issued under this section is superceded and replaced by the full faith and credit pledge of the state of Minnesota, by binding and irrevocable legislation, such action shall extinguish the full faith and credit pledge theretofore made for all bonds and the interest thereon issued pursuant to this section.

Subd. 5. From the funds appropriated by Laws 1973, Chapter 720, Section 43, Subdivision 2, Paragraph h, which could be used for grants in aid for recreational and natural areas located within the jurisdiction of the council, not committed for such purposes on April 1, 1974, the amount needed but not to exceed \$2,000,000 is hereby reappropriated to the council for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1974, to pay principal and interest coming due in such fiscal year on bonds issued pursuant to this section.

[1973 c 492 s 14; 1974 c 563 s 7]

✓ **473G.08 LOCAL ACQUISITION.** Any park district or municipality wholly or partially within the metropolitan area, and any county in the metropolitan area not wholly within a park district, may acquire, develop and manage any land or water area, or any interests, easements or other rights therein, comprising regional recreation open space in the same manner as it is authorized to do for other park and recreation purposes, and such area or other rights shall constitute a part of the park and recreation system of the acquiring agency.

[1974 c 563 s 8]

✓ **473G.09 COUNCIL ACQUISITION.** The metropolitan council shall have the same powers as a county under section 398.32, subdivision 1, to acquire any land or water area, or any interests, easements or other rights therein, which are included in the policy plan whenever such areas have not been acquired for recreation open space purposes within the period of time hereinafter specified; provided that the council shall not have the power of eminent domain. Before proceeding with the acquisition of any such area or other rights, the council shall by resolution offer a grant covering the full cost of acquisition to the municipality, park district or county in which the area or other rights are situated. If the acquisition process has not been initiated within 60 days or if the area or other rights have not been acquired within 12 months after the adoption of the resolution, the council may by resolution offer such a grant to another park district or county or to a municipality in the metropolitan area. If the acquisition process has not been initiated within 60 days or if the area or other rights have not been acquired within six months after the adoption of the resolution, the council may direct the commission to proceed with acquisition. The council may, in its discretion, direct the commission to contract with a municipality, park district or county for such services as may be needed to complete such acquisition. The council shall direct the commission to manage such areas so as to preserve them for future recreation open space purposes and may contract with a municipality, park district or county for such management. The council shall convey such areas to a municipality, park district or county for development and operation consistent with an approved recreation open space master plan.

[1974 c 563 s 9]

✓ **473G.10 TAX EQUIVALENTS.** In each of the four years after the metropolitan council or park district, county or municipality acquires fee simple title to any real property included in the regional recreation open space system, the metropolitan council shall pay to the municipality or township in which the property is situated an amount equal to the total amount of the taxes levied thereon for municipal or township purposes for collection in the year in which title passed, diminished by 20 percent for each subsequent year to and including the year of payment; provided that for any year in which taxes on the property, or on the privilege of using or possessing it, are paid this tax equivalent shall not be paid. All amounts paid pursuant to this section are costs of acquisition of the property with respect to which they are paid.

[1974 c 563 s 10]