

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 42: Parks and Recreation Department Park Acquisitions

To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier:	Senator Dembrow

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means defer action on the request to the 2024 legislative session.

The Parks and Recreation Department has requested additional Lottery Funds expenditure limitation for park acquisitions, based on an existing balance. As a result of the pandemic's negative impact on lottery revenues, the acquisitions budget was reduced, and the Department seeks to restore the acquisitions budget to nearly pre-pandemic levels. The same request was not approved during the 2023 legislative session due to concerns with cash flow and reserve funding.

The Department's target reserve balance would support six months of operating expenditures. Currently, Parks Lottery Funds operating reserve balance is just shy of this target. Lottery revenues have increased slightly since the May 2023 forecast on which the agency's budget is based. Deferring consideration of this request until the legislative session allows for review and consideration of the latest revenue forecast.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.