

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 13, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Authorization to retroactively submit and accept Bridge Infrastructure Grants from the DNR

File Type: Action Item

REQUEST

Authorization to retroactively submit and accept Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants for bridge infrastructure repairs in amounts not to exceed \$100,000 per project. The two RTP grants would support: (1) replacement of the Oak Leaf Trail pedestrian bridge over the Root River near Hwy 100 and W Coldspring Road; and (2) replacement of two Menomonee River trail bridges within Menomonee River Parkway in Wauwatosa.

POLICY

§ 59.17(2)(b)3., Wis. Stats., states that the “county board may continue to exercise the authority under s. 59.52(6) with regard to land that is zoned as a park...”. In the law of property, authority over “land” include authority over all rights appurtenant to the land.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	WP073901 – Parks Bridges Repairs and Replacement Phase 2

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County Parks is in the process of improving segments of the Oak Leaf Trail and bridges through two capital projects. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a reimbursable grant program that can add resources and expand the amenities that we are able to improve. The RTP requires a 20% local match for each RTP grant application which will be provided through previously allocated funds in Capital Project WP073901 – Parks Bridges Repairs and Replacement Phase 2, adopted as part of the 2023 Capital Budget. Retroactive authorization is requested to apply for and receive grant funding to meet

RTP application timelines.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

- 1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government - Sharing results of a community-wide survey that should inform future decisions on how to distribute the Fund for the Arts
- 1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government
- 1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses
- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities - maintaining and improving safe access to public recreational trail infrastructure
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability – leveraging a DNR grant to expand the projects improved in capital project WP073901 – Parks Bridges Repairs and Replacement Phase 2
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

FISCAL EFFECT

If awarded, the RTP grants would reimburse up to 80% of eligible project costs, with the required local match provided through previously adopted Parks capital funding, resulting in no new appropriations. The local match would be provided from previously approved funding in an existing capital project.

TERMS

FY2026 RTP grants are expected to be completed by 2030.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

PREPARED BY:

Robert Senglaub, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks
Delaney Pichotta, Grants Coordinator, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks *guy smith*

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Note
PowerPoint
DNR Application

CC: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Committee on Parks & Culture Chairperson
Steve Taylor, Committee on Parks & Culture Vice Chairperson
Priscilla Coggs-Jones, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Jack Eckblad, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Anne O'Connor, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Allyson R. Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB
Sandy Saltzstein, Research and Policy Analyst