



January Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks

9480 Watertown Plank Rd.

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 257-PARK

Date: December 19, 2019

To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: **Potential for installation of a new Children's Garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Informational**

Issue

Milwaukee County Parks has been approached by a donor along with the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens to make park improvements to the Boerner Botanical Gardens by installing a new Children's Garden that will be oriented towards youth.

Background

A donor has recently approached Milwaukee County Parks regarding their desire to fund the installation and ongoing maintenance of a new Children's Garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens. This donation would include new improvements oriented towards engaging youth in activities related to nature and plants. This new Children's Garden would come at no cost to the County in terms of installation and the donor guarantees to fund the ongoing repair, maintenance, and improvement of the garden as well. Milwaukee County staff and the donor have discussed the potential of entering into a Development Agreement and other contracts to ensure that the garden is installed, maintenance and improvement is ensured, and that the County would bear no financial responsibilities, all pending future County Board approval.

The Children's Garden will include amenities that will engage youth in fun and educational activities around nature and plants. Specific elements of the Children's Garden may include seating and play areas for children and plantings of annual plants.

Boerner Botanical Gardens is comprised of multiple unique gardens each with its own specific focus, and all are immediately adjacent to the Boerner Education and Visitor's Center in Whitnall Park. These include the Voight Trial

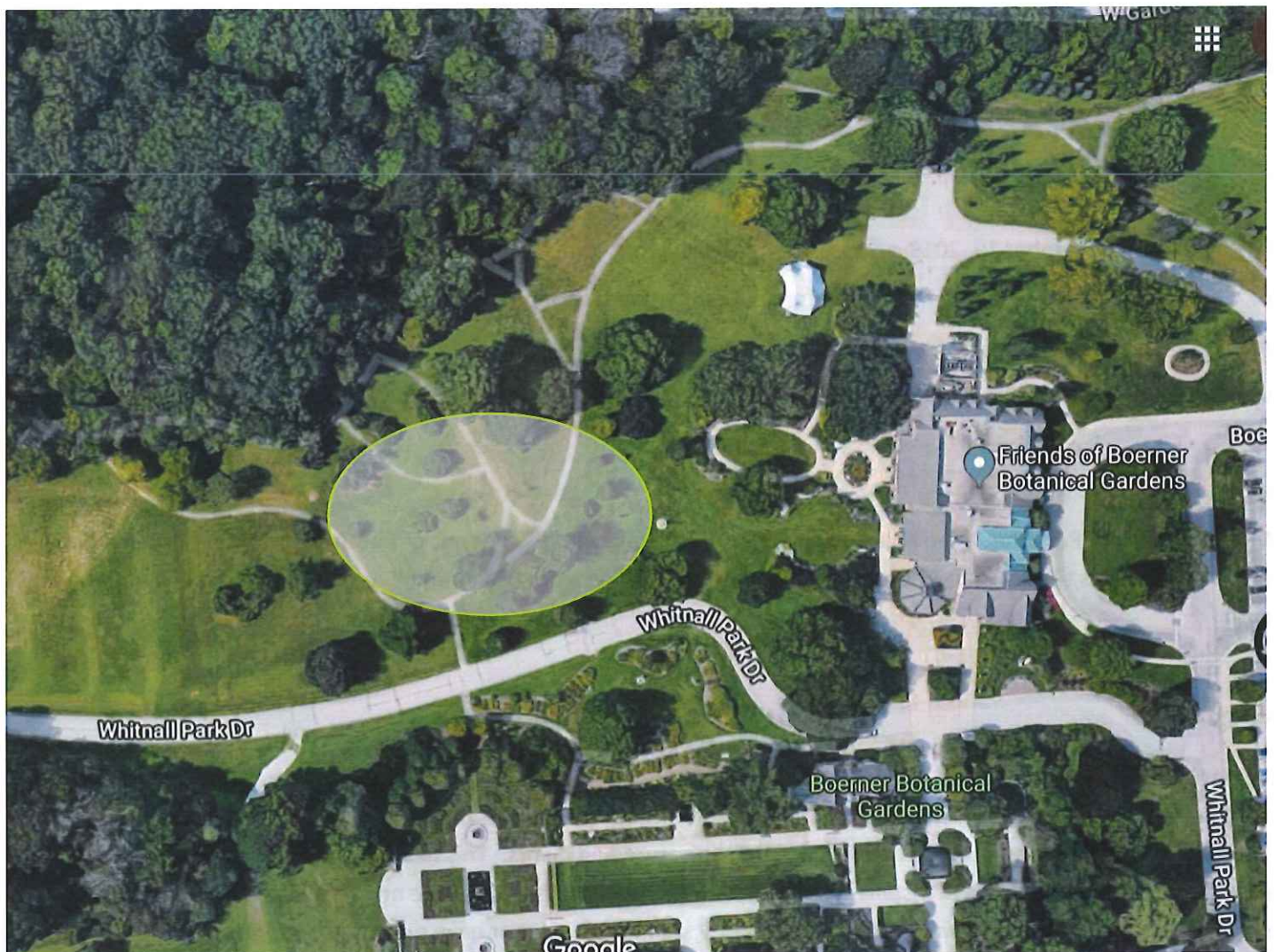


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Garden, an annual garden, perennial garden, peony garden, heirloom garden, herb garden, rose garden, shrub mall, rock garden, and arboretum for trees throughout the Park. The proposed Children's Garden adds new plantings and amenities for children that are otherwise lacking in the current facility. This garden would be located in an unprogrammed area west of the Education and Visitor's Center, as further described in the image below.



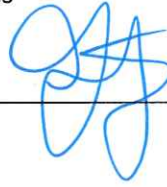
Milwaukee County Parks is seeking to enter into a Development Agreement and a Maintenance Agreement with the donor to govern the installation of the Children's Garden and to ensure that a sustainable maintenance plan is in place prior to breaking ground. Should discussions and plans progress related to this project, future action will be requested of the County Board on these agreements.

Recommendation

This report is for informational purposes, no action is requested at this time.

Prepared By: Jim Tarantino, Director of Recreation and Business Services

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director



Attachments

- None

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- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Jason Haas, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 14
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Marcelia Nicholson, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 5
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 8
- Patti Logsdon, Supervisor District 9
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Pam Mathews, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS -Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget



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