

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 16, 2024

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks requesting authorization to apply for and accept State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Grant

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

Milwaukee County Parks requesting authorization to apply for and accept State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Grant

**POLICY**

State statute provides that the County Board may accept donations and grants for any public governmental purpose within the powers of the county.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52 (19)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	

**BACKGROUND**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the Urban Forestry Grant under Wisconsin State Statute 23.097 and Chapter NR 47.

The DNR's Urban Forestry Grant program is designed to support projects and programs that improve a community's capacity to manage its trees. Toward that end, the Parks Department seeks Urban Forestry Grant support to assist with tree purchasing in efforts to mitigate the impact of trees removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer. The program will expand the capacity of Parks' forestry operations by:

- Improving the ability for Parks to replace trees removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer;
- Increasing tree diversity and implementing the department's forestry management plan;
- Promoting Parks' financial sustainability by securing alternative funding sources for tree purchases;
- Support reforestation efforts by friends groups throughout Milwaukee County.

The estimated cost of the project is \$50,000, with a DNR share of no more than \$25,000

and a local match of \$25,000, which will be provided through in-kind staff labor. In accordance with grant requirements, Milwaukee County Parks identifies the Operations Manager – Land Resource Division as the Authorized Representative to complete the following:

- Sign and submit the grant application;
- Sign a grant agreement between Milwaukee County Parks and the DNR;
- Submit interim and/or final reports to the DNR to satisfy the grant agreement;
- Submit grant reimbursement request to the DNR;
- Sign and submit other required documentation.

Projects may start no earlier than January 1, 2025 and must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Related File No's:	19-778, 14-810
Previous Action Date(s):	

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This request aligns to the strategic plan by enhancing the county's fiscal health and sustainability. Parks is looking to be as efficient and creative as possible to fund improvements to existing infrastructure.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

The grant requires a 50% local match. The match would be provided through in-kind staff labor.

**TERMS**

Applications are open on an annual basis.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

None

**PREPARED BY:**

Peter Bratt, Director of Operations & Skilled Trades, Milwaukee County Parks

**APPROVED BY:**

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks *Guy D. Smith*

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution  
Fiscal Note  
Presentation

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  
Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member  
Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member  
Jack Eckblad, 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