

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: January 18, 2022

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Parks asking for passive review of a non-professional services agreement in the amount of \$122,500 with the Department of the Army for the Veterans Park Lagoon Restoration Project

File Type: Passive Review

REQUEST

The Executive Director of Parks respectfully requests passive review of a non-professional services agreement with the Department of the Army for the Veterans Park Lagoon Section 506 Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Project. The term of the agreement will begin upon signing and terminate upon completion of the study. The County's project share is \$122,500, which is being provided through a Fund for Lake Michigan Grant.

POLICY

Per Wis. Stat. §59.52(31), contracts with a value of at least \$100,000 but no greater than \$300,000 require County Board passive review.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.21(31)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

In 2016, Milwaukee County Parks became aware that the lagoon in Veterans Park near Lincoln Memorial Drive had tested high for levels of blue-green algae, which raised human health concerns and reduced the recreational opportunity for the residents of Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County Parks, in conjunction with partners at the City of Milwaukee and University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, attempted to dissipate the algae with the use of aeration devices to circulate the water, without success.

In June 2020, Milwaukee County Parks received permission from the County Board of Supervisors to apply for and accept grants from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Fund for Lake Michigan to formulate a plan to remedy the health of the Veterans Park Lagoon (County Board File No. 20-419)

This collaboration with the Department of the Army is a continuation of Parks’ work to seek out funding and options to improve the ecosystem in Veterans Lagoon. This agreement authorizes a reconnaissance study to determine whether a Great Lakes ecosystem restoration project should proceed under Section 506 of the Water Resources Development Act. If the study determines that a restoration project should proceed, it will be a major step forward in finding a solution to the health of the Veterans Park Lagoon.

Related File No’s:	
Associated File No’s (Including Transfer Packets):	20-783, 20-419, 16-712
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#) as follows:

- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability

This project utilizes grant and federal funds to move forward with improving the water quality in Veterans Park Lagoon, which is an amenity that is available to anyone who enjoys the lakefront. Ensuring the lagoon is free from blue-green algae and other water contaminants is important to the health of the community while habitat restoration is important for the health of the County’s natural resources. Use of non-county funds continues to improve the fiscal health of the County. Additionally, improving the water health of the lagoon will allow for more activities in the lagoon, increasing revenues to Parks.

FISCAL EFFECT

Match is provided through grant funding.

TERMS

The non-federal sponsor shall contribute \$122,500 of shared study costs.
Term is upon signing until the completion of the study.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Erica Goblet, Parks Contracts Manager

PREPARED BY:

Erica Goblet, Parks Contracts Manager

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Parks Executive Director



ATTACHMENTS:

Fiscal Note

Draft Agreement

Fund for Lake Michigan Grant

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk
David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
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
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
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