



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: March 20, 2017
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
From: John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Subject: **Authorization to Apply for a 2017 State of Wisconsin Stewardship Program Grant (ACTION)**

POLICY

Request authorization to apply for a 2017 State of Wisconsin Stewardship Program grant.

BACKGROUND

The State of Wisconsin Stewardship Program is designed to facilitate and promote "nature-based outdoor recreation." Nature-based outdoor recreation consists of activities whose primary purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of nature. Examples include hunting, trapping, fishing, multi-use trail activities, picnicking, and wildlife or nature observation. Support facilities that enhance nature-based outdoor recreation and/or improve disabled accessibility access such as roads and parking lots are also eligible for Stewardship funding.

The Stewardship Program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Program funds are reimbursed on a 1:1 state-local cost-share basis, and grant applications are due May 1, 2017.

DPRC seeks authorization to submit a Stewardship Program grant application for the existing Oak Leaf Trail (OLT) project between Drexel Avenue and Bender Park. The estimated cost of the project is \$2,000,000 for this three-mile extension of the OLT. DPRC has been awarded a \$1,458,000 federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant and the City of Oak Creek has agreed to contribute \$320,000 to the project. The DPRC is requesting that it be authorized to apply for Stewardship Program grant for that \$222,000 remaining amount.

The WDNR is currently reviewing the Drexel to Bender Oak Leaf Trail Project for eligibility. That determination had not been made at the time this report was submitted.

Should the OLT project mentioned above be deemed ineligible, the DPRC would consider the submittal of one of the following alternative projects:

- Reroute a section of OLT between Green Tree Rd and Calumet Ave. This section is currently in a wetland and subject to frequent flooding. The section would be rebuilt outside of the wetland.
- Replace a section of OLT along Lincoln Creek between Teutonia Ave and Cameron Ave. and improve access.
- Redeck OLT bridges between Drexel Ave and Puetz Rd.
- Replace wooden pedestrian bridge at the north end of Lake Park near the restroom building.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize DPRC to apply for State of Wisconsin Stewardship Program grant funding for the extension of the Oak Leaf Trail from Drexel Avenue to Bender Park in the City of Oak Creek, or to apply for an alternative project if the Drexel Avenue to Bender Park Oak Leaf Trail project is not eligible for Stewardship funding. Also, authorize the DPRC, Office of Comptroller and Department of Administrative Services to execute an administrative fund transfer to recognize the receipt of revenue and apply it to the Oak Leaf Trail Drexel Avenue to Bender Park project or to one of the alternative projects identified by the DPRC.

Prepared by: Bill Waldron, Natural Resources Specialist

Approved by:



John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Fiscal Note
- Attachment 2 – Resolution

Copy: Chris Abele, County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Jason Haas, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee,
Marcelia Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee,
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS