

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 28, 2023  
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
From: Guy Smith, Executive Parks Director for Milwaukee County Parks  
Subject: Informational Report on WP054501- Whitnall Golf Course Irrigation  
File Type: Informational Report

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**REQUEST**

Milwaukee County Parks is providing an informational report on WP054501- Whitnall Golf Course Irrigation

**POLICY**

State statute authorizes counties to construct, purchase, acquire, lease, develop, improve, extend, equip, operate and maintain all county buildings, structures and facilities hereinafter in this subsection referred to as "projects", including without limitation because of enumeration swimming pools, stadiums, golf courses, tennis courts, parks, playgrounds, bathing beaches, bathhouses and other recreational facilities, exhibition halls, convention facilities, convention complexes, including indoor recreational facilities, dams in county lands, garbage incinerators, courthouses, jails, schools, hospitals and facilities for medical education use in conjunction with such hospitals, homes for the aged or indigent, regional projects, sewage disposal plants and systems, and including all property, real and personal, pertinent or necessary for such purposes.

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|--|----------------|
| Wisconsin State Statutes:                    | 59.52(6)(d)(1) |
| Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances: |                |
| Specific Adopted Budget:                     | 2022           |
| Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:           |                |
| Specific Adopted Capital Project:            | WP054501       |

**BACKGROUND**

The 2022 adopted capital budget included \$332,757 in design funding to replace the Whitnall Park Golf Course Irrigation. Concurrently, Milwaukee County Parks submitted requests for ARPA funding at the end of 2021 to add golf course cart paths at Whitnall Park. The intent was to reduce construction impacts to the course by completing both projects at the same time.

ARPA funds must be encumbered by the end of 2024 per program funding rules.

Funding for the Whitnall Golf Course Irrigation was not approved in the 2024 capital budget. Without the corresponding county capital contribution, the cart path component of the project cannot continue. Parks was aware of this timing conflict in the spring of 2023 and has correspondingly included cart paths within the scope of the 2024 request.

Whitnall Park Golf Course was opened in 1932 and designed by George Hansen. The irrigation system was last updated in the 1970's. The system is nearing the end of its useful life. The last major irrigation project at Greenfield Golf Course included revisions to the course layout to improve play and safety. As there will be major disruption to the course requiring partial or full closure, the design team took the opportunity to try and address circulation issues, add revenue, and lengthen the existing course design. The current proposal includes rerouting the course layout and adding a driving range.

Milwaukee County Parks conducted a public information meeting on the proposed changes to Whitnall Golf Course at the Whitnall Golf Course Clubhouse on September 14, 2023. The event was well attended by the public and incorporated Parks landscape architects, Department of Administrative Services A&E engineers, Golf Superintendent, and design consultants. Milwaukee County Parks engagement page contains images and comments on the project at [www.mkecountyparks.org](http://www.mkecountyparks.org). The presentation from the meeting is attached to the file.

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| Related File No's:                                    | 22-592 |
| Associated File No's<br>(Including Transfer Packets): |        |
| Previous Action Date(s):                              |        |

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This project primarily contributes to the strategic plan by enhancing the County's fiscal health and sustainability through improvements to existing revenue generating facilities.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The 2022 capital budget included planning for this project.

### **TERMS**

None


### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

[Jon.canavan@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Jon.canavan@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

### **PREPARED BY:**

Jeremy Lucas, Director of Administration & Planning, Milwaukee County Parks

### **APPROVED BY:**

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks 

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Whitnall Golf Course PIM 9.14.23

**CC:**

David Crowley, County Executive

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office

Sheldon A. Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, Comm on Parks & Culture Chair

Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, Comm on Parks & Culture Vice Chair

Felesia A. Martin, Supervisor District 7, Comm on Parks & Culture Member

Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, Comm on Parks & Culture Member

Steve F. Taylor, Supervisor District 17, Comm 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

Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller

Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB