

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: October 1, 2021

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Milwaukee County Parks is requesting retroactive authorization to apply and accept National Park Service Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Grant to extend the Kinnickinnic River Oak Leaf Trail

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Milwaukee County Parks requests retroactive authorization to apply and accept a National Park Service Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Grant to extend the Kinnickinnic river segment of the Oak Leaf Trail.

BACKGROUND

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (OLRP) Program helps urban communities acquire or develop land to create or reinvigorate public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces in ways that will provide opportunities for people, especially youth, to connect or re-connect with the outdoors. This project seeks to expand and improve recreation opportunities for all by building a trail in an underserved area.

Milwaukee County's Kinnickinnic River Oak Leaf Trail project was one of only nineteen projects selected for funding from the National Park Service, Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (OLRP) Program. The project proposes to reconstruct the Kinnickinnic line of the Oak Leaf Trail as a separated, off-road path from 16th St to 27th St. The grant award is for fifty percent of the estimated project cost totaling \$453,954. County Parks is working with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to identify in-kind match opportunities for the project in conjunction with planned removal of the concrete lining of the nearby Kinnickinnic River.

Currently the trail is on a combination of city streets, park paths, and parkway drive. This project will increase trail equity and outdoor recreation opportunities in the heart of Milwaukee's lower income and Latinx community. The proposal will connect three existing parks via off-road trail and is part of a continuing plan to connect near southside residents to the 135 mile Oak Leaf Trail system.

The Oak Leaf Trail is a nationally recognized trail system; however the system is not accessible to all groups equally, with lower income neighborhoods having little access to trails and larger parks that contain nature-based recreation opportunities. This project seeks to address the trail and nature-based recreation deficit in near southside neighborhoods by converting a trail that is currently routed on busy roads to a separated, traffic free, trail experience that appeals to families and new riders.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This project supports the County's Strategic Plan in the following ways:

- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions-
- 3A: Invest "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

FISCAL EFFECT

The grant requires a fifty percent match (in-kind or financial)

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Jessica Wineberg
Jeremy Lucas

PREPARED BY:

Jessica Wineberg, Trails Coordinator, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Parks Executive Director *Guy Smith*

ATTACHMENTS:

KK Trail Map

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
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Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
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