

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 20, 2021  
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks  
Subject: WP0727 – Oak Leaf Trail Zip Line Sinkhole Emergency  
File Type: Action Report

---

**REQUEST**

Milwaukee County Parks requests the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors determine project WP0727 – Oak Leaf Trail Zip Line Sinkhole is an emergency in accordance with Chapter 44 of Milwaukee County ordinance.

**POLICY**

Chapter 44 of the Milwaukee County ordinances authorizes repair or reconstruction of public facilities when the county board, by resolution, determines that damage or threatened damage creates an emergency in which the public health or welfare of the county is endangered.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	44.01(b)
Specific Adopted Budget:	2021 Adopted Budget
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

**BACKGROUND**

In 2019 a depression began forming on the Zip Line segment of the Oak Leaf Trail. The depression worsened into a sinkhole requiring the closure of the trail in 2020. The 2021 adopted capital budget included project WP727-Oak Leaf Trail Zip Line Sinkhole with an appropriation of \$689,838 in general obligation bonds. Concurrent with the budget deliberations in 2020, Milwaukee County Parks applied for and was awarded a Wisconsin Department of Transportation -Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant and a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program grant. Additionally, the Friends of Milwaukee County Trails raised private funds of \$18,225 for the repair of the trail. In 2021, File #21-95 replaced the appropriated bond funding in WP727 with the awarded grant funding and transferred funding to support project WP484- Lake Park Ravine Road Bridge.

Bids were solicited in the summer of 2021 for project WP0727- Oak Leaf Trail Zip Line

Sinkhole and three were received. One bid was found to be unresponsive and the other two were significantly over budgeted appropriations. Construction was originally scheduled to begin in fall of 2021. The conditions on the project site have continued to deteriorate. There is an increasing risk of culvert collapse and subsequent blockage of the water that flows under the trail that will result in flooding of neighboring properties and hazardous trail conditions. Repairs are recommended to begin prior to winter to preserve property and protect health and welfare of persons.

Related File No's:	20-733, 21-95, 21-353
--------------------	-----------------------

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

Funding for repairs will be utilized from the existing appropriations for project WP0727- Oak Leaf Trail Zip Line Sinkhole

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Karl Stave, DAS Architecture and Engineering

### **PREPARED BY:**

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

### **APPROVED BY:**

Guy Smith, Parks Executive Director *Guy Smith*

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  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board  
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  
Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller  
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB