COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 16, 2024

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Apply for and accept State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
             Inflation Reduction Act Grant

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST
From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks requesting authorization to apply for and accept State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Inflation Reduction Act Grant

POLICY
State statute provides that the County Board may accept donations and grants for any public governmental purpose within the powers of the county.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52 (19)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	

BACKGROUND
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the Inflation Reduction Act Grant under Wisconsin State Statute 23.097 and Chapter NR 47.

The DNR's Inflation Reduction Act Grant program is designed to support projects and programs that improve a community's capacity to manage its tree canopy. Toward that end, the Parks Department seeks this funding to support the department's reforestation efforts to:

- Plant 260 2" diameter landscape trees across Milwaukee County at select parks;
- Convert eight acres of land to natural areas by planting 969 native trees and shrubs;
- Support the Milwaukee County Zoo by reforesting two acres of land at the Zoo by planting 950 trees;
- Promote equity and climate change resilience in disadvantaged communities with training, community outreach, and tree removal events.

The estimated cost of the project is $369,292.69 which will be paid entirely by this grant.

Milwaukee County will not be required to provide a match.

In accordance with grant requirements, Milwaukee County Parks identifies the Operations Manager – Land Resource Division as the Authorized Representative to complete the following:

- Sign and submit the grant application;
- Sign a grant agreement between Milwaukee County Parks and the DNR;
- Submit interim and/or final reports to the DNR to satisfy the grant agreement;
- Submit grant reimbursement request to the DNR;
- Sign and submit other required documentation.

Work resulting from this award would occur during a three-year period between September 2024 and September 2027.

Related File No's:	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN
This request aligns to the strategic plan by enhancing the county's fiscal health and sustainability. Parks is looking to be as efficient and creative as possible to fund improvements to existing infrastructure.

FISCAL EFFECT
There is no fiscal impact to Milwaukee County

TERMS
None

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES
Ryan Fenley, Forestry Supervisor, Milwaukee County Zoo,
ryan.fenley@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:
Peter Bratt, Director of Operations & Skilled Trades, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:
Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks   *Guy Smith*

ATTACHMENTS:
        Presentation

CC: David Crowley, County Executive
        Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
        Sheldon Wasserman, Committee on Parks & Culture Chairperson
        Steve Taylor, Committee on Parks & Culture Vice Chairperson
        Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
        Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
        Jack Eckblad, Committee 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