

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 21, 2025

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director for Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Authorization to enter into a Conservation Easement with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to grant a 20-year conservation easement to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District for the grant-funded green infrastructure project located at McKinley Marina, just north of downtown on the lakefront.

**POLICY**

§ 59.17(2)(b)3., Wis. Stats., states that the “county board may continue to exercise the authority under s. 59.52(6) with regard to land that is zoned as a park...”

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

**BACKGROUND**

In March 2021, in File No. 20-250, Milwaukee County Parks requested and was granted authorization by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to enter into certain agreements with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (“MMSD”) for grant funding applicable to green infrastructure (“GI”) elements of a capital project at McKinley Marina.

MMSD awarded the grant to Milwaukee County Parks because the McKinley Marina, which is located along the Lake Michigan shoreline just north of downtown Milwaukee falls within the service area boundary of Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) in addition to the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern (AOC). The McKinley Marina north parking lot had not been replaced since 1987 and was in very poor condition for some time, not serving public use needs, and with minimal stormwater management capabilities.

The project included replacing the parking lot to improve internal circulation and parking lot infrastructure, new LED lighting, a new fish cleaning station, boat launch improvements, new boat storage area, new storm drainage system and improving nearshore water quality utilizing green infrastructure and storm water best management practices.

The GI project included installation of 3,500 square feet of native landscaping; 9,790 square feet of porous pavement; 24 trees; and 7,280 square feet of bioswale, providing a detention capacity of 85,430 gallons.

As part of the grant requirements, MMSD requires that the green infrastructure be protected and maintained by the County and that the County grant a limited conservation easement in favor of MMSD.

Related File No's:	21-250
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

No fiscal impact. Staff time to ensure compliance with the grant and conservation easement requirements.

### **TERMS**


- Twenty-year limited-term conservation easement to keep, preserve, and maintain the green infrastructure.
- The county is solely responsible for the operation, maintenance, and evaluation of performance.
- MMSD has the right to enter the property to inspect and monitor for compliance.
- MMSD has the right to prevent any inconsistent uses.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

#### **PREPARED BY:**

Robert Senglaub, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

#### **APPROVED BY:**

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks 

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution

Fiscal Note

Executed MMSD GIPP

Green Infrastructure Map

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

Priscilla Coggs-Jones, Committee on Parks & Culture Member

Jack Eckblad, Committee on Parks & Culture Member

Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member

Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member

Anne O'Connor, 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

Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB

Sandy Saltzstein, Research and Policy Analyst