

From the Executive Director of Parks, requesting authorization to grant a 11-year conservation easement to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District for the tree planting located at the Kinnickinnic River Parkway. It is further requested that the County Executive and County Clerk be authorized to execute any required documents, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2024, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) provided an informational report (File No. 24-719) to the Committee on Parks and Culture (P&C) on a forthcoming tree-planting partnership at the Kinnickinnic River Parkway (the Parkway), that showcased a partnership with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and the nonprofit organization Milwaukee Riverkeeper (Riverkeeper); and

WHEREAS, MMSD's Reforestation and Wetland Restoration (RWR) Program seeks to plant six million trees and restore 4,000 acres of wetlands over ten years, throughout MMSD's service area in southeastern Wisconsin, to strengthen the natural processes that support managing stormwater and reducing the risk of flooding; and

WHEREAS, Riverkeeper's mission is to protect, improve, and advocate for water quality, riparian wildlife habitat, and sound land management in the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic River watersheds; and

WHEREAS, MMSD was awarded a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) that provides funding to support reforestation in southeastern Wisconsin, and is providing funding to implement natural flood management infrastructure for other governmental units, nonprofit organizations, and other property owners through its RWR Program; and

WHEREAS, in November 2024, Riverkeeper planted trees on DPRC property, as part of the RWR Program, in the Parkway, north of the Kinnickinnic River between Montrose Avenue and West Sumac Place; and

WHEREAS, grant funding provided by MMSD requires that the project area be protected and maintained through a Limited Conservation Easement (the Easement) to ensure the functionality of the green infrastructure for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, the Easement area only applies to specific areas of the Parkway property that contain these new trees; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County retains ownership of the land and will maintain these trees for the duration of the Easement; and

47 WHEREAS, the Director, DPRC, recommends that MMSD be granted an 11-year
48 Easement, which requires DPRC to keep, preserve, and maintain these trees, as
49 required by the terms of the grant; and
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51 WHEREAS, P&C, at its meeting of January 28, 2025, recommended adoption of
52 File No. 24-1071 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,
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54 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby
55 authorizes the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, the Department
56 of Administrative Services (DAS), Register of Deeds, Corporation Counsel, and Risk
57 Management, DAS, to prepare, review, approve, execute, and record all documents,
58 contracts, easements, agreements, and take all actions as required to grant Milwaukee
59 Metropolitan Sewerage District the required 11-year Limited Conservation Easement
60 (the Easement), to allow for the keeping, preserving, and maintaining of trees planted
61 on the property at the Kinnickinnic River Parkway, 2651 South 43rd Street, City of
62 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53219; and
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64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Executive and County Clerk are
65 authorized to execute the Easement and other required documents.
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