



Retroactive Authorization to submit and accept **Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant** from DNR

4/14/2026





Request

Parks is requesting authorization to retroactively submit and accept a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant in the amount of \$752,783 to support the redesign of the Washington Park aquatic area into a destination splash pad.



Background

- LWCF is a reimbursable grant program administered by Wisconsin DNR and funded through the National Park Service to support outdoor recreation development projects. Retroactive authorization is requested to meet the LWCF application deadline of May 1, 2026.
- Since 1966, Parks has been awarded over \$12 million of LWCF funds for 30 projects.

Background

- Washington Pool has been closed since 2020 due to broader operational and staffing challenges.
- This project would transform the Washington Park aquatic area into a larger destination splash pad to improve accessibility, enhance user experience, and modernize the site.
- The 2025 Milwaukee County Parks Aquatics Study, which evaluated long-term needs across the County's aquatic system, identified splash pads as a more sustainable, lower-maintenance option that requires less staffing than traditional pools while continuing to provide recreational and cooling opportunities.



Washington Park Splash Pad in 2010

Terms



- LWCF grants were due May 1, 2026.
- Awards will be announced in 3-4 months.
- Projects must be completed by 2030



Questions?



Thank You!