

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 16, 2024

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Parks Director for Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks requesting authorization to enter into a Subaward Agreement with the City of Milwaukee to accept funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Urban and Community Forestry Grant

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks requesting authorization to enter into a Subaward Agreement with the City of Milwaukee to accept \$1,500,000 in funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Urban and Community Forestry Grant

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52 (19)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Ch. 108 – Achieving Racial Equity and Health
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County Parks (MCP) Forestry Division has devoted significant resources over the past fifteen years to addressing the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB, or *Agilus planipennis*, is an invasive, wood boring beetle that kills ash trees by eating the tissue under the bark. Over this time, the Forestry Division has removed about 25,000 trees throughout parks in Milwaukee County. At current staffing and funding levels, the majority of ash tree removal efforts should be completed by 2030.

As removal efforts continue, in recent years MCP has begun replanting trees throughout the park system. Since 2021, the Forestry Team has increased the number of tree plantings through additional funding and partnerships with friends groups and other community partners. In addition, MCP has made investments in the Department's nursery at 68th Street and Ryan Road to expand the capacity of the nursery and to

enhance future planting efforts. Thirdly, MCP Parks' Natural Areas Team continues its restoration efforts throughout our system, which includes tree plantings, removing invasive species from MCP property, and restoring wetlands and agricultural lands.

To further support this work, MCP has partnered with the City of Milwaukee in support of the Growing Milwaukee's Tree Canopy and Community Resilience Plan. The Tree Canopy and Community Resilience Plan provides funding under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County Parks, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to address Milwaukee's urban tree canopy disparities.

The activities supported by this grant are multi-faceted. These include tree planting and maintenance, tree pruning, stump removal and site restoration, poor conditioned tree removal, de-paving and tree planting, workforce development, and community education. The City of Milwaukee-Forestry Services (FS), acting as both a recipient and pass-through entity, will complete these objectives by creating multiple opportunities for public engagement and provision of associated urban forestry tasks. This work will be conducted in collaboration by all the grant partners. MCP will receive funding to perform many of these activities, including tree planting and maintenance, tree pruning, stump removal and site restoration, poor conditioned tree removal, de-paving and tree planting. Funding will also allow for the renting of equipment and materials to support these activities.

Additionally, community-based organizations (CBOs) acting as subrecipients will conduct some of the grant's work, including tree planting and maintenance, stump removal and site restoration, de-paving and tree planting, workforce development, and community education.

MCP's expected outcomes include:

- Hiring one natural resource coordinator and five technicians in year 1 to establish a new reforestation and nursery crew for the MCP Forestry Team;
- Expanding existing tree nursery between years 1 and 2 to grow an additional 750 trees; and
- Pruning 3,000 trees by the MCP Forestry Team.

\$1.5 million in funding from the USDA will pass through the City of Milwaukee to Milwaukee County Parks over a five year period. Milwaukee County Parks expects \$300,000 in funding per year (starting in 2024) over a five-year period.

By approving this subrecipient agreement with the City of Milwaukee, MCP will be further able to implement it's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Objective to equitably balance the parks system to be sustainable. A Key Performance Indicator within Parks' Strategic Plan is to "Increase tree plantings above existing planned amounts by 1,350" by 2026.

Related File No's:	22-916, 23-309, 23-952
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Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	September 13, 2022, March 7, 2023

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request aligns with the strategic plan by working to invest upstream to address root causes of health disparities, enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability, and dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

FISCAL EFFECT

This request would increase operating funding by up to \$1,500,000 over a five year period and will not increase the operating costs for MCP.

TERMS

There are no future obligations by any party in this agreement.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

PREPARED BY:

Peter Bratt, Director of Operations and Skilled Trades, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks *Guy D. Smith*

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Note
Subaward Agreement

CC:

David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Comm on Parks & Culture Chair
Comm on Parks & Culture Members
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