



March Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks

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Date: February 19, 2021
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **2021 Budget Amendment 1A015 – Manitoba Park Practice Field (INFO)**

Issue

The 2021 budget included an amendment requesting that Milwaukee County Parks work with the Jackson Park Community Association to facilitate the restoration for the baseball practice field at Manitoba Park and report on the potential paths forward in the March cycle.

Background

Each year, Milwaukee County Parks receives many requests for projects to improve facilities within the system. Parks staff work with requestors to accomplish our shared goals when they align with Parks' mission. In 2019, the Parks Community Project Request Parks Improvement Process was established to review and vet the viability of community project requests, and more than twelve Parks subject matter experts meet regularly to review these proposals.

Parks review criteria includes consideration of alignment with county and park priorities, impacts on maintenance (deferred and current), planning alignment, enhancement of recreation and park programming, impact to environment and natural resources, funding capacity/revenue generation, and level of staff involvement. Paths to project realization include approval by the department, additional negotiation, or rejection.

A proposal for improving the existing baseball field in Manitoba Park was submitted for review to the park improvement process in late 2020. The proposal includes removing unwanted grass from the infield and leveling it with sand/silt/clay mixture, procuring new bases, benches, bleachers, and foul poles. The proposed budget for the project is approximately \$3,900-\$5,000. A grant in the amount of \$1000 has already been provided by Wal-Mart for this project. Additional funds are to be raised by the Jackson Park Neighborhood Association.



The request was submitted after the fall deadline for review and not reviewed in 2020. Due to lack of Parks staffing capacity resulting from the pandemic and continued annual budget reductions, and a backlog of approved pending projects, park improvement project reviews are severely limited or suspended in 2021. That said, Parks has scheduled a review for the submitted proposal in February per the request through amendment 1A015.

Recommendation

This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

Prepared By: Jeremy Lucas, Director of Administration & Planning, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks Guy Smith

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- David Crowley, County Executive
- Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
- Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
- Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB

