

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 19, 2024

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

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

Subject: Milwaukee Parks Foundation & Pat Connaughton Foundation for improvements to Meaux Park basketball courts

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

The Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks requests authorization to accept funding of up to \$195,000 from the Milwaukee Parks Foundation & Pat Connaughton Foundation for improvements to Meaux Park basketball courts.

**POLICY**

Milwaukee County Resolution 22-785 approved the agreement between Milwaukee County Parks and the Milwaukee Parks Foundation, Inc. As outlined in the Agreement, Milwaukee Parks Foundation will only solicit funding for Capital Improvements, and will not be directly involved in the design, permitting, oversight, or contracting of Capital Improvements. Capital Improvements are non-recurring construction, renovation, improvement, vehicle/equipment acquisition(s), and major technology software/hardware projects that meet the following criteria:

1. Capital costs are greater than or equal to \$100,000 and have a useful life greater than 1 year; and
2. Project addresses core facilities and/or infrastructure needs; and
3. Project addresses major deferred maintenance and/or life-safety issues.

The Agreement requires Capital Projects eligible for Milwaukee Parks Foundation funding to be approved by the County Board, if not already approved and included in the current County budget.

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| Wisconsin State Statutes:                    |            |
| Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances: | Chapter 13 |
| Specific Adopted Budget:                     |            |
| Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:           |            |
| Specific Adopted Capital Project:            |            |

**BACKGROUND**

Milwaukee County Parks owns and maintains Meaux Park located at 1904 W Villard

Ave in Milwaukee, WI. Meaux Park spans 24.5 acres and boasts a range of recreational amenities including a soccer field, softball diamond, cricket pitch, a play area and basketball courts as outlined in the image below. Additionally, a segment of the Oak Leaf Trail is also routed through the park.



Meaux Park is also home to Running Rebels Warning Basketball League, the second oldest basketball league in the country. Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the Warning Basketball League impacts the lives of approximately 500 young people who participate in its programs at Meaux Park. During the summer months from Monday through Thursday, the Warning League hosts eight games daily on these courts, underscoring their heavy usage and the need for improvement. The deteriorating asphalt and worn court amenities are in need of significant investment to ensure the enjoyment of players.

Milwaukee Parks Foundation's mission is to collectively steward a thriving parks system. Through fundraising, raising awareness, building community capacity and partnerships, and advocacy, Milwaukee Parks Foundation (MPF) is dedicated to building a more vibrant and equitable parks system that benefits all. Recognizing the importance of maintaining quality facilities for youth sports, the Milwaukee Parks Foundation, in collaboration with Running Rebels and Milwaukee County Parks, sought support from the Pat Connaughton Foundation for renovations to the basketball courts at Meaux Park.

Founded in 2016, the mission of the Pat Connaughton Foundation is to create access to athletics for the next generation of student athletes through initiatives focused on Clinics, Courts, and Character. In alignment with its mission, the Pat Connaughton Foundation generously awarded \$195,000 to Milwaukee Parks Foundation to fund the renovation of the Meaux Park basketball courts. As part of the partnership, the Pat

Connaughton and Milwaukee Parks Foundation logo or signage will be incorporated into the court renovations, acknowledging their contribution to the project. The \$195,000 will be awarded to Milwaukee Parks Foundation for the benefit of Milwaukee County Parks.

Milwaukee County Parks recommends accepting the funds from the Milwaukee Parks Foundation in the amount up to \$195,000 to repair the basketball courts and enhance court amenities, ensuring a safer and more enjoyable experience for all users.

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| Related File No's:                                    | 22-785 |
| Associated File No's<br>(Including Transfer Packets): |        |
| Previous Action Date(s):                              | 9/9/22 |

### **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 capital funding by up to \$195,000 and will not increase the operating costs to maintain the park or courts.

### **TERMS**

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

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

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### **PREPARED BY:**

Jeremy Lucas, Director of Administration & Planning, Milwaukee County Parks

### **APPROVED BY:**

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

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Background on the Pat Connaughton Foundation Background  
Resolution  
Fiscal Note

### **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

Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller

Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB