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## July Board Cycle

**Milwaukee County Parks**

9480 Watertown Plank Rd.

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 257-PARK

Date: June 17, 2020  
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors  
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks  
Subject: **Active Streets (INFO)**

### Issue

Informational report related to the Active Streets program.

### Background

Social and physical distancing practices that are necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be in place for an extended time frame. Due to closures and cancellations of activities from COVID-19, Milwaukee County Parks has seen a large increase in trail use over the last few months. Milwaukee County Parks has partnered with the City of Milwaukee to create a program entitled Active Streets. Active Streets are effective in Humboldt, Jackson, Little Menomonee Parkway, and Estabrook Parks by closing these roadways and parkways to motorized traffic. Active Streets create additional trail capacity by providing more space for people to walk, run, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, etc without concern for motorized vehicles. Milwaukee County Parks applied for an Arts and Transportation Rapid Response Grant from Smart Growth America to fund an artist to enliven Active Streets with art installations. If awarded, funds would support an artist's time and parks staff time to coordinate with no match required.

Active Streets are closed to through traffic but still accessible for emergency and maintenance vehicles. Additional accessible parking spots have been marked at most Active Streets Entrances. Volunteers and staff are monitoring barricades. City of Milwaukee Active Streets are in neighborhoods and thus only through traffic is prohibited, so everyone can drive to their own home. Many cities across the country have closed roads to motorized traffic including Oakland, California that has made over 100 miles of local roads Active Streets.



**Recommendation**

No recommendation, report for informational purposes only.

Prepared By: Jessica Wineberg, Trails Coordinator, Milwaukee County Parks

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



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- Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive’s Office
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