



MILWAUKEE COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT ALLOCATION Community Support Program Proposal {PROJECT NAME}

COMMUNITY SUPPORT CATEGORY

Please select the community support category that applies to this proposal:

- Household Assistance.** Proposals may include expenditures related to food programs; rent, mortgage, and utility aid; cash transfers; internet access programs; eviction prevention; unemployment benefits or cash assistance to unemployed workers; housing support: affordable housing; and housing support: services for unhoused people.
- Mental & Behavioral Health.** Proposals may include expenditures related to mental health services; substance abuse services; and other public health services.
- Other Social Determinants of Health.** Proposals may include expenditures related to job training assistance; small business economic assistance; aid to nonprofit organizations; aid to other impacted industries; healthy childhood environments: home visiting and services to foster youth or families involved in child welfare system; social determinants of health: community health workers or benefit navigators and community violence interventions; clean water; drinking water; and broadband.

PROJECT DESIGN

Provide an overview of how the community support project being proposed addresses an urgent community need brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Demonstrate how the project provides a feasible solution to the demonstrated need and is being coordinated with partners. Include any collaboration that will occur during the project. Explain how the proposal falls within Milwaukee County's scope of services. (500-word max response)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee is requesting support from the Milwaukee County ARPA Allocation in support of the "Re-Imagining Sherman Park Project". In partnership with the Milwaukee County Parks Department, the Re-Imagining Sherman Park Project will improve healthy child and family environments, reduce the need for community violence intervention, reduce stormwater runoff and improve clean water conditions within Milwaukee County, and drastically improve the safety, vibrancy, and vitality of Sherman Park Neighborhood residents, City of Milwaukee youth, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee's Club members and families.

The COVID-19 pandemic altered human behavior around the world. To maintain mental and physical health during periods of lockdown and quarantine, people often engaged in outdoor, physically distanced activities such as visits to parks and greenspace. According to the *Center of Disease Control (CDC)*, Parks and greenspaces improve quality of life for urban residents in many ways. In terms of physical health, park use promotes active lifestyles that reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and other chronic health conditions. With respect to mental health, contact with parks and greenspace has been linked to improved cognitive functioning, lower rates of heart disease and obesity, stress reduction, emotional well-being, and improved

social relationships.

Since the inception of the pandemic, urban park usage has been on the rise. Unfortunately, even before the pandemic, environmental justice research has shown that low-income neighborhoods typically experienced limited access to parks, greenspaces, and other outdoor recreation resources ([Sister et al., 2010](#); [Rigolon, 2016](#); [Nesbitt et al., 2019](#)). If parks are located in low-income communities of color, they often tend to be of lower quality ([Rigolon et al., 2018](#)). Thus, the potential benefits of parks are not realized equitably across all communities and neighborhoods' of Milwaukee. Roughly two years ago, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee began discussions with Milwaukee County Parks to improve Sherman Park, which houses the Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club. Over the span of the past two years, partners including Friends of Sherman Park, the Sherman Park Community Association, the Milwaukee Police Department, the Milwaukee Sheriff Department, Near West Side Partners, Alderman Khalif Rainey, County Supervisor Felicia Martin, and neighborhood/community residents have all provided input on the potential park improvements outlined below in our 13-point improvement plan and attached to this application.

The "Re-Imagining Sherman Park Project" falls within Milwaukee County's Scope of Services by directly helping improve Sherman Park. The project will have the greatest impact on the following aspects of County services: 1.) enhancing healthy and active park spaces with the Milwaukee County Parks system, 2.) easing pressure on County Department of Youth & Family Services by improving healthy childhood and family outcomes, 3.) improving behavioral health outcomes to assist both the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department, the House of Corrections, and the County Behavioral Health Division, and 4.) improving opportunities for both seniors and the disabled alike in ways that will assist both the Department on Aging and the Disabilities Services Division.

TRACKABLE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Provide an overview of the project's goals, objectives, outcomes, and/or outputs that will be achieved by December 31, 2024. Please ensure that proposed project outcomes align with the Milwaukee County vision to achieve racial equity and eliminate health disparities. (250-word max response)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee and the Parks Department have identified several objectives for the Re-Imagining Sherman Park Project:

Objective 1: Improve Racial Equity through enhanced park amenities and increased community engagement:

The project will encourage increased racial equity by improving community involvement (especially among resident minorities) in Milwaukee County Park services by improving access and vitality to a critical north side park resource (Sherman Park).

- Performance Indicator #1: Picnic Area rental will increase 50% year over year.
- Performance Indicator #2: Tennis and Basketball Courts, Baseball Field will see 60% activity increase year over year.

Objective 2: Ensure Long-term, Effective, and low maintenance Green Infrastructure Solutions

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution in urban areas, such as Sherman Park. This runoff carries trash, bacteria, heavy metals, and other pollutants from urban landscapes. Using elements from GRAEF's stormwater management plan, the project will reduce stormwater runoff, positively impact the functionality and amenity of the Park, and require low maintenance by installing stormwater trees between the north side parking lot and the Mary Ryan Club. Stormwater will be further mitigated through the use of permeable pavement for the short-

term parking solution near the Mary Ryan Club entrance. This installation will significantly improve the park's natural appearance while helping to reduce water runoff.

- Performance Indicator #1: Fewer flooding events of park playfield spaces and fewer MMSD discharges of sewage material into Lake Michigan.

INVEST IN EQUITY & INTENTIONAL INCLUSION

Provide an overview of how the proposed project supports historically underserved, marginalized and/or adversely affected groups. Projects will be scored by their alignment with Milwaukee County's strategic objectives to (1) achieve racial and health equity, (2) dismantle barriers and (3) invest "upstream" to address root causes of health. Demonstrate how this proposal supports any or all of these objectives. If applicable, include how this proposal was informed by community input and builds capacity of community organizations. (500-word max response).

The "Re-imagining Sherman Park Project" is squarely focused on eliminating health disparities and achieving racial equity by supporting the long and historically underserved Sherman Park neighborhood and broader north side community. Access to healthy and vibrant parks is a key determinant to racial and health equity. All too often, it is the parks in more affluent areas that get all the attention and improvements due to localized philanthropic efforts. Sherman Park has long served as a critical piece of the north side recreational infrastructure (despite its neglected appearance) and gets short shrift in comparison to the investments made in parks such as: Lake Park, Humboldt Park, Grant Park, and Hoyt Park. This 13-point improvement plan will build upon a \$250,000 renovation of the softball/baseball field a few years back (and a recent \$125,000 renovation to the basketball court supported by the Bucks and corporate donors) through the following additional improvements: 1. Creating a new park monument-style sign to announce activities in the park, 2. Complete the improvements to the parking lot to ensure broad access, 3. Install a new splash pad in the old wading pool (that hasn't been operational in years and years), 4. Relocate the waste management area (which sits in the center of all park activities and creates a very uninviting environment), 5. remediate drainage issues in the 'informal playfield' in the SW area of the park, 6. Resurface the short-term pick-up area for families using the Boys & Girls Clubs, playground, or ballfield, 6. Create a new Community Bike Shop in the "garage space" near the planned (and renovated) concession stand, 7. Repair and repave the pathways and lighting throughout the park, 8. Create a new covered picnic area (to serve family picnics and create outdoor summer programming space), 9. Create an Enhanced Concessions Area that providing a space for park users to enjoy comfortable and shaded tables for light refreshments, 10. Improving the exterior bathroom facilities for daytime park use only (to be locked and unlocked by Boys & Girls Clubs staff daily), 11. Completion of long-term parking re-surfacing, 12. Storm water trees planting, 13. Park video surveillance system (please see budget for best detail).

This Sherman Park Improvement Plan is the culminating result of more than two years of planning activity...spearheaded by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Parks and benefitting from additional meetings and input from the Friends of Sherman Park, the Sherman Park Community Association, the Milwaukee Police Department, the Milwaukee Sheriff Department, Near West Side Partners, Alderman Khalif Rainey, and several well-attended, COVID-era virtual resident input meetings. This "Community Support Project Challenge" grant is a timely opportunity to breathe life into this extensive park planning effort. Project costs estimates were professionally provided by GRAEF Design. There is NO DOUBT that the planned improvements will breathe life and vibrancy back into Sherman Park, thereby ensuring broad use and improved health equity within (especially) Milwaukee's African American community.

EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY

Please select the statement that aligns with the community support project. This project was developed with:

- Strong Evidence:** can support casual conclusions for the specific program with the highest level of confidence. This consists of one or more well-designed and well-implemented experimental studies conducted on the proposed program with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes.
- Moderate Evidence:** reasonably developed evidence base that can support casual conclusions. The evidence-base consists of one or more quasi-experimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes OR two or more nonexperimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes. Examples of research that meet the standards include well-designed and well-implemented quasiexperimental studies that compare outcomes between the group receiving the intervention and a matched comparison group (i.e., a similar population that does not receive the intervention).
- Preliminary Evidence:** can support conclusions about the program's contribution to observed outcomes. The evidence-base consists of at least one nonexperimental study. A study that demonstrates improvement in program beneficiaries over time on one or more intended outcomes OR an implementation (process evaluation) study used to learn and improve program operations would constitute preliminary evidence. Examples of research that meet the standards include: (1) outcome studies that track program beneficiaries through a service pipeline and measure beneficiaries' responses at the end of the program; and (2) pre- and post-test research that determines whether beneficiaries have improved on an intended outcome.

Provide an explanation to support the statement that most aligns with the project. Include the experimental studies conducted on the proposed project. *Evidence-based strategies can be found through the following: [Results First Clearinghouse Database](#) | [The Pew Charitable Trusts \(pewtrusts.org\)](#) and [Homepage | CLEAR \(dol.gov\)](#). (250-word max)

The "re-imagining Sherman Park Project" will contribute towards re-energizing Sherman Park and improving quality of life for neighborhood residents based on preliminary evidence from similar studies on effects of Parks on health and quality of life. According to the National Recreation and Parks Department (NRPA), multiple studies have proven that more time spent in parks and green spaces can help individuals fight against mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and stress. Making sure that all people have access to parks and outdoor programming is a critical way to increase these positive effects on health and quality of life for residents of Sherman Park. Furthermore, researchers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Occupational Therapy have published new findings that suggest spending 20 minutes in an urban park will make someone happier regardless of whether they are engaging in exercise or not during the visit.

As Sherman Park and the Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club looks to the future, it has become clear that making physical changes to address the changing needs of the community is essential. From adding a new splashpad, to resurfacing the basketball courts, addressing drainage issues in the park, updating beloved amenities will breathe new life into Sherman Park, the Club, and the neighborhood at large. Most importantly, these updates will ensure that the park can be used to its fullest potential and serve the public for years to come.

ARPA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Provide a detailed overview of the applicant’s experience managing federal funds. Detail any experience ensuring accurate data collection and adherence to federal reporting requirements. If this is an internal application, detail any experience managing contracts and ensuring reporting deadlines are met. If this is an external applicant, detail any experience receiving funding from Milwaukee County and ensuring reporting deadlines are met.

BGCGM is exceptionally well-suited to manage this grant. BGCGM has their own Federal Grants department, who were responsible for overseeing almost \$15,000,000 in federal funds in 2021. Within the past five years, BGCGM has successfully managed the following types of city, state, and federal grants (funder): Community Learning Centers (DOE), Community Block Grants (HUD), AmeriCorps programs (CNCS), Teen Pregnancy Prevention (DHHS), OJP Mentoring (DOJ), Child and Adult Care Food Programs (USDA), Be Great Graduate (State DCF), and many workforce grants: Brighter Futures, WIOA-ISY, FSET, MYSEP, and a Workforce Pathways grant.

The Clubs also have significant experience partnering with the stakeholders listed in this grant. Appropriate care and attention will be provided to ensure that ALL activities are planned, revised, and administered in concert with the Milwaukee County Parks.

BGCGM has a dedicated Finance team who will be responsible for submitting cost reports for reimbursement. The finance team is very familiar with this style of granting and follows protocols such as these, on many of our grant awards. Additionally, BGCGM related project staff will participate in required trainings and follow appropriate reporting methods to ensure program deliverables are met.

ARPA FUNDS REQUESTED

Provide the total request amount to be spent between 2022 – 2026. Explain how funds will be incurred and encumbered by December 31, 2024. Include if the project has matching funds or resources. (250-work max)

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee requests \$1,685,995 and pledges a match of \$500,000 (\$250,000 cash in hand, and \$250,000 private contributions to follow) to cover a total project cost of \$2,185,995. Upon award, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee will work in concert with the Milwaukee County Parks to plan, refine and schedule all project implementation AND will host at least two final public input sessions to ensure the scope of work meets the needs and expectations of all key community stakeholders. All work will be planned for completion in 2023 beginning in early spring and being comfortably completed by fall of 2023. We are absolutely certain this project will be completed with all funds incurred and encumbered long before the December 31, 2024 deadline. Monthly standing meetings will be planned and held with the Milwaukee County Parks to ensure all partners are aware of appropriate roles and any activities that are best managed by the Milwaukee County Parks would be subcontracted for services through the County Parks.

BUDGET

Complete the short-form budget and provide a formula for your calculation by defining the expense item, number of units, and cost per unit for the requested project period. Please add rows as necessary. In the table below, outline any matching funds or resources. Please note: all costs needed for a project should be included in the budget below (example: staffing capacity, rent/space, utilities, etc.).

Expense Item	Description	Total Cost
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Personnel Expenses (including fringe benefits)			
1. N/A	All expenses are listed under Professional Services		N/A
Professional Services			
1. New Monument Sign	\$10,000 estimate provided by Milwaukee County Parks		\$11,000
2. Asphalt Resurfacing of Long-term Parking lot and Walkway (by courts)	Long-term parking lot is about 2/3 resurfaced. Finish the remaining 1/3. Also resurface walkway by tennis/basketball courts. Estimate by comparable projects and high-level analysis.		\$48,000
3. New Splashpad	\$600,000-\$800,000 cost range provided by Milwaukee County Parks		\$800,000
4. Re-located waste management area	Enclosure Cost (GRAEF comparable project) + \$90/square yard parking lot cost for approach (estimate by Milwaukee County Parks)		\$54,945
5. Stormwater Trees	Comparable projects, GRAEF Estimate		\$11,000
6. Field remediation to fix drainage issues	Comparable projects and high level analysis, GRAEF Estimate		\$137,500
7. Re-surfaced pick-up area and short terms parking spots	Further study needed by a traffic engineer to determine feasibility of desired parking design. Range estimates vary based on whether project uses traditional asphalt OR a permeable paving option (which MMSD and Fund for Lake Michigan would assist financially with).		\$331,000
8. New Community Bike Shop	Rough estimate by BGC Milwaukee staff includes updated interior features and counter provided.		\$22,000
9. Enhanced Concessions Area	Based on installed costs of picnic tables, umbrellas, planters, new pavement, new lighting, and new signage. Interior kitchen renovation estimate provided by BGC Milwaukee staff. More detail in Attachment provided.		\$134,750
10. Repaired and repaved pathways (with lighting)	The County Parks has budgeted \$383,000 for pathway improvements in 2023, with an effort to repair the lighting being considered for an additional cost. Estimate provide by County Parks...in 2020.		\$421,300
11. Mary Ryan Club – Exterior Bathroom Renovation (concessions)	Bathrooms would be maintained by BGCGM staff. Only available/unlocked during day hours when Club is open. Comparable Projects, High Level assumptions made. Further Quotes needed.		\$132,000
12. New Covered picnic shelter	Standard wood-frame open air shelter with roof. Estimate does not include concrete pad.		\$33,000
13. Park Video Surveillance System	6 camera system (with signage) to help keep a watchful eye on park activity in the evening/night time hours.		\$49,500
Supplies & Equipment			
1. N/A	All expenses are listed under Professional Services		N/A
Capacity Building Resources for Implementation			
1. N/A	All expenses are listed under Professional Services		N/A
Total Calculations			
Total Expenses			\$2,185,995

Other Revenue Source (s)	Committed or Available Revenue Amount	Potential Revenue Amount
Total Other Revenue Amount	\$0	\$0