



May 2019 Board Cycle**Milwaukee County Parks**

9480 Watertown Plank Rd.

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 257-PARK

Date: April 18, 2019
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, CPRP, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **Spring 2019 sPark Requests (ACTION)**

Issue

Approval of sPark Matching Fund (formerly known as Parks Amenities Matching Fund) spring 2019 requests from: Bublr Bikes in the amount of \$5,000 to support an accessible bike share station in Wisconsin Avenue Park; Friends of Cooper Park in the amount of \$550 to support a pollinator garden in Cooper Park; Friends of Wehr in the amount of \$20,500 to support the Voice and Data Improvement Project at Wehr Nature Center in Whitnall Park; Hunger Task Force in the amount of \$31,993 to support replacement of the barn roof and silos at 9000 S. 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132; Park People in the amount of \$33,000 for renovations to the beer garden in Humboldt Park; Sheridan Park Friends in the amount of \$2,500 and \$2,750 to support invasive species removal and lagoon restoration, respectively, in Sheridan Park; and, The Ability Center in the amount of \$20,000 to support accessible beach ramps at Bradford Beach.

Background

Bublr Bikes is requesting \$5,000 through the sPark Matching Fund to support a bike share station in Wisconsin Avenue Park to provide accessible bicycles and create a first of its kind, truly integrated accessible bikeshare system. In partnership with The Ability Center, this project will consist of the installation of five accessible bikes for the system with Bublr providing all the station components necessary for a fully functional station. Additionally, Bublr Bikes will execute engagement efforts to help promote the accessible bicycles. The \$5,000 proposed through sPark, would complete the project with the addition of a kiosk terminal. The estimated total project cost is \$40,645.

The Friends of Cooper Park is requesting \$550 through the sPark Matching Fund to install a pollinator garden in Cooper Park. This project includes plant and site maintenance within a site that is approximately 15'x30' of native plants, including forbs, grasses, and sedges appropriate for the selected site. The goal of the project is to attract pollinators to the restored

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habitat in which they may live, thrive, and multiply, all while bringing neighbors together to enhance and enjoy Cooper Park. The estimated total project cost is \$1,100.

The Friends of Wehr is requesting \$20,500 through the sPark Matching Fund to support the Voice and Data Improvement Project at Wehr Nature Center in Whitnall Park. The Friends of Wehr have raised funds needed for the improvement of deferred maintenance over the last six years. In the process of these reconstruction projects, old, non-functioning phone systems were exposed, making known the building's non-compliance with current building codes. During the current maintenance, it is more economical to run the cabling required for voice and data now while the ceilings are open than to wait and reopen the ceilings. Use of sPark funds will allow the Friends of Wehr to leverage their donation for repairing of out-of-code electrical systems to upgraded voice and data cabling and connections through the building during the same construction process. The estimated total project cost is \$46,500.

The Hunger Task Force is requesting \$31,993 through the sPark Matching Fund to support the replacement of the barn roof and silos in the farm, located at 9000 S. 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132. The iconic 1946 barn houses Parks' Fish Hatchery, through which Hunger Task Force raises and stocks 40,000 fish in Milwaukee County park ponds and lagoons each year. In 2014, the Fish Hatchery Barn Roof was evaluated, and it was noted that the asphalt shingles were deteriorated and needed to be replaced within the next five years. In January 2018, Milwaukee County received a Time and Material Quote for barn roof replacement of \$97,200. Hunger Task Force has raised matching funds of \$50,907 and will assume responsibility for long-term maintenance of the roof, in addition to replacing and maintaining the aging silos at the farm; reducing the County's deferred maintenance obligation. The estimated total project cost is \$82,900.

The Park People of Milwaukee County is requesting \$33,000 through the sPark Matching Fund to support renovations and updates to the Humboldt Park Beer Garden. In partnership with Milwaukee County Parks' Concessions team, this project will redesign the beer garden formerly operated by St. Francis Brewery, upgrading the space to Parks standards and needs, including landscaping, décor, lighting, sound system, furniture, and signage. The estimated total project cost is \$66,000.

Sheridan Park Friends is requesting \$2,500 through the sPark Matching Fund to support invasive species removal along the bluff in Sheridan Park. The Invasive Species Removal Project will eradicate non-native plant species along the Sheridan Park bluffs, allowing native plant species to reestablish. Additionally, Sheridan Park Friends will monitor for reoccurrences and schedule weed-outs as necessary, reducing the non-native populations and supplementing native reestablishment with individual plantings. The estimated total project cost is \$5,000.

Sheridan Park Friends is also requesting \$2,750 through the sPark Matching Fund to support lagoon restoration in Sheridan Park. The Lagoon Restoration Project is a multi-phased project along the shoreline of the lagoon to remove existing cattails, replacing a portion of them with reeds, plant native plant species, while continuing to monitor the results of these efforts using an adaptive management approach. Currently, the cattails have expanded to roughly 50% of the lagoon's shoreline and can be found in smaller patches in the picnic area on the west side of the lagoon. This project will initiate the removal of this invasive plant species. The estimated total project cost is \$5,500.

The Ability Center is requesting \$20,000 through the sPark Matching Fund to support accessibility ramps at Bradford Beach. This project is the first phase to connect visitors in wheelchairs to the edge of Lake Michigan, ensuring that Bradford Beach can be available for all to enjoy. It will include up to a 100' x 12' ADA compliant paved ramp, with a 12'x20' landing at the bottom, and the additional seasonal beach matting necessary to allow those with mobility impairments to reach the water. Estimated total project cost is \$110,000.

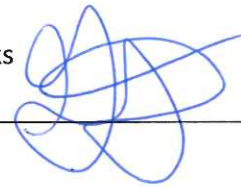
The current available balance of the sPark Matching Fund is \$216,680. Contingent on approval of funding for these projects totaling \$116,293, the remaining balance in the sPARK program will be \$100,387. The community's submittal deadline for the next round of review is August 10, 2019. Over the summer, Parks will engage diverse communities to ensure that sPark funds are distributed equitably throughout the system. Parks will work with Friends Groups, Neighborhood Associations, and Community Organizations to increase participation from disadvantaged neighborhoods. In addition, Parks will work closely with the Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) to identify additional community partners that may wish to participate. Staff will conduct workshops and other outreach to encourage these communities to participate in this opportunity.

Recommendation

Approve spring 2019 sPark Matching Fund awards in the amounts of: \$5,000 to Bublr Bikes to support an accessible bike share station in Wisconsin Avenue Park; \$550 to Friends of Cooper Park to support a pollinator garden in Cooper Park; \$20,500 to Friends of Wehr to support the Voice and Data Improvement Project at Wehr Nature Center in Whitnall Park; \$31,993 to Hunger Task Force to support replacement of the barn roof and silos at 9000 S. 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132; \$33,000 to Park People for renovations to the beer garden in Humboldt Park; \$2,500 to Sheridan Park Friends to support invasive species removal in Sheridan Park; \$2,750 to Sheridan Park Friends to support lagoon restoration in Sheridan Park, and; \$20,000 to The Ability Center to support accessible beach ramps at Bradford Beach.

Prepared By: Jay Burseth, Fund Development Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, CPRP, Executive Director



Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Resolution
- Attachment 2 – Fiscal Note



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Copy

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Jason Haas, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 14
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Marcella Nicholson, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 5
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 8
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS



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