

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 16, 2024

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Permission to apply for and accept LWCF Grant

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks seeking authorization to submit to the grant programs for the Land and Water Conservation Funding Program, and, if applicable, to accept a related grant award.

POLICY

Milwaukee County Ordinance 56.06 requires County Board approval for application for a federal, state or private grants of assistance that requires a County match.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	56.06
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County Parks owns and maintains Moss Universal Park (formerly Wisconsin Avenue Park) at 10300 Wisconsin Ave, which is a 17.9-acre neighborhood park in Wauwatosa. This the site has recently been supported through project commitments by The Ability Center (TAC). TAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and works towards a goal to provide a higher quality of life for people of all abilities by transforming greater Milwaukee into the most universally inclusive recreation destination in the world.

Parks has entered into a 25-year lease arrangement with TAC that acknowledges their plans for a fully accessible park, to be achieved through 2 phases of construction. The first phase includes upgrades to the park clubhouse, accessible restrooms, a universal field, improved baseball and softball fields, accessible playground spaces, and a new and expanded parking lot. Phase two of the project proposes accessible paths, fitness stations, activity areas, an inclusive challenge course, and sensory destinations. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$10 million, which TAC is providing through its fundraising, with no funding required from Milwaukee County.

While evaluating different funding opportunities, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program was identified as a potential resource for this universal park project. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. The LWCF encourages the creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities, which matches with the existing project goals.

Milwaukee County Parks staff have worked in collaboration with TAC to prepare an application for LWCF funds in spring of 2024. Because TAC is providing all necessary funding match, there is no financial obligation from the County for the grant application, with the exception of staff time.

Permission from the Milwaukee County Board is requested to authorize Milwaukee County Parks, Office of the Comptroller, Department of Administrative Services, Corporation Counsel, Risk Management, Office of Economic Inclusion, Office of the County Executive or any other department necessary to take all actions required for the purpose of accepting and administering a grant, if awarded.

Related File No's:	22-928, 23-311, 23-599
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	7/20/23

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request aligns to the strategic plan by enhancing the county's fiscal health and sustainability. Parks is looking to be as efficient and creative as possible to fund improvements to existing infrastructure.

FISCAL EFFECT

Any grant award would be matched by TAC, therefore there is no anticipated County fiscal impact.

TERMS

Spring 2024 applications will be reviewed and awarded in the same calendar year by the State of Wisconsin

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Sarah.Toomsen@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Courtney Rogaczewski courtney@tacwi.org

Damian Buchan damian@tacwi.org

PREPARED BY:

Sarah Toomsen, Principal Landscape Architect, Assistant Director of Planning,
Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Project Area Map

CC: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Committee on Parks & Culture Chairperson
Steve Taylor, Committee on Parks & Culture Vice Chairperson
Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Jack Eckblad, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
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