

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 19, 2024
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: Easement with the City of Wauwatosa
File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to enter into a permanent easement with the City of Wauwatosa for placement of municipal storm sewers, bridge infrastructure, traffic signal and street lighting infrastructure, as part of the reconstruction of the bridge at Wisconsin Avenue over Honey Creek, at the Honey Creek Parkway in the City of Wauwatosa.

POLICY

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

BACKGROUND

The City of Wauwatosa (“City”) and Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation are jointly funding the reconstruction of a bridge across Honey Creek. The bridge was built in 1934 and in poor condition. The total cost of the bridge project is \$5.6 Million shared equally between the two parties. Milwaukee County Parks, US Army Corps of Engineers (“ACOE”), Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (“MMSD”), Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Historical Society are all involved in the project planning and coordination. The latter named entities either own property adjacent to the reconstruction project or are involved in permitting aspects of the reconstruction project.

Milwaukee County Parks (“Parks”) is the adjacent landowner, and a permitting agency. The reconstruction project involves impact to County land, including the need for an easement to include replacement of aging storm sewer outfalls, an area for the bridge wingwalls, and installation of traffic lighting infrastructure.

Parks is also working with ACOE and MMSD on a federally funded Honey Creek Flood Management and Habitat restoration Project for a 1.7 mile stretch of Honey Creek scheduled to start in 2026, The bridge reconstruction is located within this 1.7 mile segment.

The City project will impact Parks property in several beneficial ways. The City will replace aging storm sewer outfalls on County land. The City will have to remove the concrete liner in the Honey Creek channel below the bridge, with a resulting improvement to channel flow, and will become a part of the Parks-ACOE-MMSD project. City will install traffic lighting at the currently uncontrolled four-way intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Honey Creek Parkway, where 30 crashes occurred between 2016 and 2020. The Project will also involve removal of some invasive species trees and the post-construction restoration will include prairie plantings that will improve the upland habitat at Honey Creek Parkway. Finally, the City will fund the reconstruction of a pedestrian pathway that was constructed in the 1940s in Honey Creek that primarily serves St. Jude the Apostle church and school.

The City will require a permanent easement encompassing up to approximately 0.1 acres to install the municipal storm sewers, bridge infrastructure, traffic signal and street lighting infrastructure. Parks has determined that it is mutually beneficial to grant this easement, for a one-time payment from the City of \$1.00, in return for approximately \$115,000 in improvements to County property.

Related File No's:	24-323
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	3/24/24

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

- 3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

FISCAL EFFECT

The City will fund the improvements to Honey Creek Parkway and Honey Creek including county-owned storm sewer outfalls, path replacement and future path maintenance. Intangible benefits include increased safety at the four-way intersection for park and parkway users.

TERMS

- Permanent Easement
- \$1.00 One-time Payment

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

William Wehrley, City of Wauwatosa, wwehrley@wauwatosa.net
 Jessica Henderson, PE, City of Wauwatosa, jhenderson@wauwatosa.net
 Aaron Bubb, P.E., Kapur & Associates, abubb@kapurinc.com

PREPARED BY:

Saji Villoth, Assistant Contracts Officer, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft easement
- PowerPoint Presentation

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