

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 17, 2023

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks requesting authorization to create 1.0 FTE Special Projects Coordinator and 1.0 FTE Reforestation Coordinator funded through grants provided by the Milwaukee Parks Foundation

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Milwaukee County Parks requests authorization to create two additional positions to expand capacity to execute projects to improve urban tree canopy and implement projects funded through resources provided by the Milwaukee Parks Foundation.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stats 59.17
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	MCGO 17.05(1)

BACKGROUND

For many years the Milwaukee County Parks Forestry Team has been addressing the impacts of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The efforts of the Parks Forestry Team have focused on user and structure safety by removing dead trees throughout the county. Milwaukee County Parks removed over 2,500 trees in 2021. Through funding provided to the Milwaukee Parks Foundation from its partners the Fund for Lake Michigan and Molson Coors, Milwaukee County Parks will hire a Reforestation Coordinator. The Reforestation Coordinator will implement tree replanting efforts to systematically restore tree canopy throughout Milwaukee County parkland.

Milwaukee County Parks has seen an influx of funding through both governmental programs (ARPA, Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act) and the Milwaukee Parks Foundation. Milwaukee County Parks will hire a Special Projects Coordinator to provide additional capacity to implement small, medium and large improvement projects to begin reducing deferred maintenance throughout the system.

Related File No's:	22-785, 22-1107
Previous Action Date(s):	9/9/2022, 2/6/2022

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request addresses items 2C (racial equity lens), 3A (invest upstream) and 3B (fiscal health) in the Milwaukee County Strategic plan. A condition of the grant is that trees be replaced with a racial equity lens to decision making. [Urban heat islands](#) have a negative effect on health and can exacerbate existing health conditions. By addressing tree canopy Parks can invest upstream to reduce root causes of health disparities. Funding from outside sources helps to enhance both the county and departmental fiscal health.

FISCAL EFFECT

These positions were not budgeted for in 2023 but are fully funded for two years through a grant from the Milwaukee Parks Foundation (via Fund for Lake Michigan and Molson Coors). The Milwaukee Parks foundation will provide \$325,000 from mid-2023 through mid-2025 to cover the costs of employee salaries and equipment/technology.

TERMS

Initial term for funding of the positions is two years.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Rebecca Stoner, Milwaukee Parks Foundation
Rebecca.Stoner@mkeparksfoundation.org

PREPARED BY:

Jeremy Lucas, Director of Administration & Planning, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Milwaukee Parks Foundation Grant Award Letter

CC: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, PEEC Chair
Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, PEEC Vice Chair
Felicia Martin, Supervisor District 7, PEEC Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, PEEC Member
Steve Taylor, Supervisor District 17, PEEC Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB