



October Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks

9480 Watertown Plank Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 257-PARK

Date: September 25, 2019
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **Fall 2019 sPark Requests - ACTION**

Issue

Approval of sPark Matching Fund fall 2019 requests from: Artists Working in Education in the amount of \$4,000 to support pathway murals in Rose, Smith, and Moody Parks; Doctors Park Friends in the amount of \$20,775 to support the renovation of the central stairs to the beach at Doctors Park; Lake Park Friends in the amount of \$22,072 to support the replacement of the rustic wooden bridge in the Locust Street Ravine at Lake Park; Mujeres con Poder de Transformacion Social/Core el Centro in the amount of \$4,890 to support the addition of recycling bins in Kosciuszko Park; Park People in the amount of \$612 to support window replacements in the pavilion at Wisconsin Avenue Park, and; Whitnall Park Rotary Club in the amount of \$48,031 to support rock garden improvements at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park.

Background

The sPark Matching Fund is a program created to assist Milwaukee County Parks' partners with their projects to improve amenities throughout the parks system. Applications for these funds are reviewed by Parks leadership and applicable staff bi-annually in conjunction with the Parks Improvement Projects process, in which organizations, businesses, and individuals submit project ideas that they would like to carry out to improve a Milwaukee County Park. Further, according to Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Resolution 16-444, all projects recommended for a grant award through the sPark Matching Fund program must be approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors prior to the authorization of funding. Additionally, the applications are to be reviewed under the criteria that the project is:

- consistent with Milwaukee County Parks' Master Plan;
- able to maintain or enhance core services;
- able to bring a return on investment,



Empowering People
Strengthening Community



- have budgetary savings, and increase County revenues
- is compliant with a return on investment criteria that includes operating expenses and revenues, capital costs, long-term maintenance, and replacement expenses.

In the summer of 2019, Parks engaged diverse communities to ensure that 2019 sPark Matching Funds were to be distributed equitably throughout the system. Parks staff worked with friends' groups, neighborhood associations, community organizations, and the Office of African American Affairs to increase participation from disadvantaged neighborhoods. Staff plan to continue to conduct workshops and other outreach efforts to encourage racially and economically disadvantaged communities to participate in this opportunity throughout 2020. Organizations that had never applied for funding through the sPark Matching Fund did so in 2019, showing the success of these outreach efforts.

Artists Working in Education (AWE) is requesting \$4,000 through the sPark Matching Fund to support pathway murals in Rose, Smith, and Moody Parks to have professional artists work with youth to use painting and collage techniques to create individual works of art with nature themes. These projects provide art workshops in the parks for youth and community members to actively inform the designs of the pathway murals. Additionally, during the installation of the painted pathway murals, AWE will host community paint days, allowing the entire community to join in painting the mural. The estimated total project cost is \$8,000.

Doctors Park Friends is requesting \$20,775 through the sPark Matching Fund to renovate the central staircase to the beach at Doctors Park. Due to natural erosion, the stairs to the beach at Doctors Park have been slowly slanting, causing safety concerns and limited access. This project will include adding new concrete to portions of the stairway, the straightening and leveling of steps, and installing new railings, hardware, and posts to the nearly 90-year-old stairway. This renovation will also be done in a matter that will protect the surrounding native woodland plants, while creating a barrier to deter any future social trails. The estimated total project cost is \$41,550.

Lake Park Friends is requesting \$22,072 through the sPark Matching Fund to support the replacement of the rustic wooden bridge in the Locust Street Ravine at Lake Park. Originally built in 1893, this bridge was replaced several times and has recently been removed from use. The reconstruction of this bridge, similar to its original design, would connect two parts of the park with Picnic Areas 4 and 5 and the Lake Park Ball Diamond, on the south, to the playground, tennis courts, and restrooms, on the north. Lake Park Friends have dedicated several fundraising campaigns and events to raise the income needed to replace this bridge in a natural area, which is a popular spot for birders and native planting enthusiasts. The estimated total project cost is \$158,496.

Mujeres con Poder de Transformacion Social/Core el Centro is requesting \$4,890 through the sPark Matching Fund to support the addition of recycling bins in Kosciuszko Park. To be located throughout the entire popular park, Mujeres con Poder plan to implement six recycling receptacles in Kosciuszko Park, as a part of their recycling education campaign which includes Spanish language signage and outreach events for the community surrounding the park. This is the first



stage of Mujeres con Poder's long-term efforts to raise funds to improve Kosciuszko Park. The estimated total project cost is \$9,780.

The Park People of Milwaukee County is requesting \$612 through the sPark Matching Fund to support replacing the windows in the pavilion at Wisconsin Avenue Park. The Park People continue their partnership with Milwaukee County Parks and have been working with the Parks' Trades team to replace two broken thermopane windows that are approximately 5ft x 4ft with new windows. The estimated total project cost is \$1,224.

Whitnall Park Rotary Club is requesting \$48,031 through the sPark Matching Fund to support rock garden improvements at Boerner Botanical Garden at Whitnall Park. Improvements to the rock garden have three components: the installation of permeable pavers, a bridge replacement, and the creation of a pondless basin. The permeable pavers will create a hard surface for visitors to maneuver on the paths and will expand wheelchair accessibility for the Gardens. The bridge replacement will also increase accessibility for all by expanding the width to accommodate for two wheelchairs to pass. And the pondless basin will capture and recirculate the fountain and waterfall water, lessening the burden on the deep well pump and decreasing lagoon runoff. The estimated total project cost is \$96,062.

The current available balance of the sPark Matching Fund is \$100,387. Contingent on approval of funding for these projects totaling \$100,387, the remaining balance in the sPARK Matching Fund program will be \$0. The community's submittal deadline for the next round of review is February 10, 2020 pending appropriations in the 2020 budget.

Recommendation

Approve fall 2019 sPark Matching Fund awards in the amounts of: \$4,000 to Artists Working in Education to support pathway murals in Rose, Smith, and Moody Parks; \$20,775 to Doctors Park Friends to support the renovation of the central stairs to the beach at Doctors Park; \$22,072 to Lake Park Friends to support the replacement of the rustic wooden bridge in the Locust Street Ravine at Lake Park; \$4,890 to Mujeres con Poder de Transformacion Social/Core el Centro to support the addition of recycling bins in Kosciuszko Park; \$612 to Park People to support window replacements in the pavilion at Wisconsin Avenue Park; and, \$48,031 to Whitnall Park Rotary Club to support rock garden improvements at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park.

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

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director



Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Resolution
- Attachment 2 – Fiscal Note
- Attachment 3 – Artists Working in Education



Empowering People
Strengthening Community



- Attachment 4 – Doctors Park Friends
- Attachment 5 – Lake Park Friends
- Attachment 6 – Mujeres con Poder de Transformacion Social/Core el Centro
- Attachment 7 – Park People of Milwaukee County
- Attachment 8 – Whitnall Park Rotary Club

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
- Marcelia 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
- Theodore A. Lipscomb, Sr., County Board of Supervisors Chair, Supervisor District 1
- James "Luigi" Schmitt, Supervisor District 6
- Patti Logsdon, Supervisor District 9
- Supreme Moore Omokunde, Supervisor District 10
- Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Supervisor District 12
- Willie Johnson Jr., Supervisor District 13
- 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
- Mark Yatchak, Budget Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS



Empowering People
Strengthening Community

