

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 14, 2025

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks Requesting Approval to Release Funding From 2025 Adopted Budget Amendment 02

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

Milwaukee County Parks is requesting approval to release funding appropriated in 2025 budget amendment 02 from the departmental contingency account.

**POLICY**

The 2025 Adopted budget included the passage of amendment number 02 which contained the following:

“An appropriation of \$600,000 is included in an allocated contingency account within the department to pay for park enhancements. Parks shall provide a list of recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors for review and approval no later than the March 2025 meeting cycle. The projects should focus on high-priority enhancements to activate park spaces, which may include, among other initiatives, funding for seasonal staff, particularly to improve access to aquatic amenities.”

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	2025
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	02
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

**BACKGROUND**

Milwaukee County Parks reviewed the criteria in the adopted amendment, major maintenance needs and existing unfunded projects to build a recommendation that is responsive to the preferences outlined in the appropriation. The table below outlines expense categories recommended for funding by Milwaukee County Parks.

<b>Park Recommendations 2025 Budget Amendment 01</b>		
	<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1	Seasonal labor	\$230,000
2	Seasonal incentives for lifeguard and pool staff	\$70,000
3	Aquatics facility repair and maintenance	\$100,000

4	Building improvements (systemwide)	\$100,000
5	Dog Exercise Area improvements	\$50,000
6	Traffic calming (systemwide)	\$50,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

Additional explanation for the initiatives funded with this budget amendment is outlined below:

1. Seasonal Labor – funding will help address requests in the amendment to open and staff aquatic facilities and splash pads, improve community outreach and engagement and increase capacity to maintain parks and host special events.
2. Seasonal incentives for lifeguard and pool staff – funding to support recruitment and retention bonuses for seasonal staff such as the lifeguard corps in order to open aquatics facilities.
3. Aquatic facility maintenance fund – funding for repairs to pools, splash pads and wading pools as may arise in seasonal inspections.
4. Building Improvements (systemwide) – funding for interior and exterior building improvements throughout the parks system.
5. Dog Exercise Area improvements – funding for major maintenance and improvements to Dog Exercise Areas throughout the parks system.
6. Traffic calming (systemwide) – funding to support physical infrastructure and other installations that reduce reckless driving and improve pedestrian safety throughout the parks system.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

The following table outlines how each initiative aligns with the county strategic plan.

<b>Park Recommendations 2025 Budget Amendment 02 Alignment to Strategic Focus Areas</b>			
Initiative	Creating Intentional Inclusion	Bridge the Gap	Invest in Equity
Seasonal labor		2A	
Seasonal incentives for lifeguard and pool staff		2A	
Aquatics facility repair and maintenance			3B
Building improvements (systemwide)			3B
Dog Exercise Area improvements		2B	
Traffic calming (systemwide)			3A

Milwaukee County Parks respectfully requests approval to release funding from the departmental contingency account and authorization to transfer the funding into corresponding accounts and new capital projects to effectuate the outlined initiatives.

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**FISCAL EFFECT**

Funds for the requested initiatives are appropriated in the 2025 budget.

**TERMS**

None

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

None

**PREPARED BY:**

James Tarantino, Deputy Director, Milwaukee County Parks

**APPROVED BY:**

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution

Fiscal Note

**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  
Priscilla Cogg-Jones, Committee on Parks & Culture Member  
Jack Eckblad, Committee on Parks & Culture Member  
Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member  
Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member  
Anne O'Connor, 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  
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB  
Sandy Saltzstein, Research and Policy Analyst