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## December Board Cycle

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

Date: November 12, 2019  
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors  
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks  
Subject: **Approval request for retro-active permission to apply to Wisconsin Department of Transportation Multimodal Local Supplemental (MLS) Grant - ACTION**

### Issue

Milwaukee County Parks is requesting retroactive permission to apply for four Wisconsin Department of Transportation Multimodal Local Supplement Grants.

### Background

The MLS is an appropriation of \$75 million dollars in one-time funding for new transportation projects across Wisconsin. It is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The amount available to counties is \$26,082,667. Maximum awards are 3.5 million dollars and require a minimum 10% match. The goal of the grant is to spur economic development through the upgrade and improvement of all modes in the local transportation system (road, bridges, harbors, airports, trails, rail etc.). Safety, mode shift, accessibility, connectivity and cost effectiveness are also scored by a committee of 8 highway commissioners. The grant was announced in September and applications were due December 6, 2019.

Priority Oak Leaf Trail (OLT) Improvements Proposals Recommended for MLS Consideration:

The following projects were selected because they balance a number of department priorities as well as align with the scoring rubric of the grant such as: promoting economic development, addressing existing capital needs, serving broad geographic areas, serving different racial and economic groups, improving safety, local citizen and other governmental support, maintaining/enhancing the Oak Leaf Trail network, and addressing equity concerns. Understanding the fiscal constraints that Parks and the County face, the proposals focus on repair of existing assets over new trail expansion.



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1. Zip Line Sink Hole Repair (North of Silver Spring, West of Green Bay Road in Glendale)
2. Root River Trail Reconstruction (between Morgan and Howard in Greenfield)
3. Kinnickinnic River Line Trail Construction (from Forest Home to 16th St in Milwaukee)
4. Milwaukee River Line Access Ramp and Sink Hole Repair (at Hampshire in Milwaukee)

Proposal Details:

Zip Line Sink Hole (North of Silver Spring, west of Green Bay Road in Glendale):

A stone arch culvert estimated at over 100 years old is failing under the Zip Line section of the OLT causing the pavement to sink. Without repair, the trail may be closed due to safety concerns this winter. Closure will impact an estimate of over 80,000 annual trips and curtail the economic benefits of the trail. The trail intersects both predominantly white and predominantly Black neighborhoods providing job access, health opportunities, talent attraction (especially for Johnson Controls) and affordable transportation to many. A consultant has created a technical report, initial design, and cost estimate of \$700,000.

Root River Trail Reconstruction (between Morgan and Howard in Greenfield):

This section of trail was built decades ago in a low-lying area that now experiences flooding almost year-round. Changing weather, flooding, and development have likely combined to create enhanced and consistent flooding conditions. The trail experiences standing water in puddles up to 10 feet wide, 50 feet long, and up to 12 inches deep, effectively closing the trail most days of the year. Many residents and trail users have contacted Parks about the flooding. The proposed solution is to rebuild approximately 1/3 of a mile of trail on higher Parks property to the west. The Oak Leaf Trail is most useful when the network is complete. When one link is broken, use goes down on the nearby sections of trail. The current detour is a narrow road with heavy truck use that poses a safety concern and reduces trail use. The initial estimated cost is between \$200,000-\$600,000 depending on final material selection.

Kinnickinnic River Line (from Forest Home to 16th St in Milwaukee):

Residents and organizations have documented a desire for more family friendly trails for to improve exercise opportunities and transportation in this area. The Kinnickinnic River Line of the Oak Leaf Trail currently exists mostly on busy and bumpy parkways. It is not the trail experience that people prefer, especially families. Parks estimates that use would greatly increase if better facilities are built. Based on corridor width, MMSD plans, and other site constraints, the proposed trail would be a mix of separated trail and barrier protected bike lanes that give a trail like experience. This design would be a pilot for a new facility design that is popular in other cities and provides a safe and enjoyable experience for users aged 8-80 in constrained locations. It would extend the existing City of Milwaukee KK River Trail so that users could ride from Lincoln to Forest Home Ave separated from traffic. This corridor is a unique opportunity to use an existing resource, enhance it to meet community needs, provide an amenity that will enhance property values, improve job access, and allow people both a safe recreation and transportation option for themselves and their families. The initial estimated cost is between \$500,000-3,500,000 depending on project limits and length of separated trail sections versus protected bikeway sections.

**Milwaukee River Line Sink Hole, Soil Stabilization, and Access Ramp:**

A sink hole is forming under the Oak Leaf Milwaukee River Line at Hampshire where a large quantity of utilities goes under the trail. Community members and UWM have repeatedly requested an additional ramp at this location. The proposed project will diagnose and repair the trail sink hole and provide an additional trail access ramp. The initial estimated cost is between \$250,000-400,000.

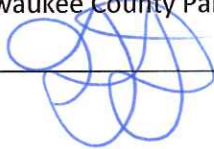
Cost ranges were finalized for the grant request but were still in development at the time of this report.

**Recommendation**

Provide retroactive approval for the application of four grants to the one-time Multimodal Local Supplemental grant program.

Prepared By: Jessica Wineberg, Trails Coordinator Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director



**Attachments**

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note
- Map 1

**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
- 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, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs, Department of Administrative Services



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