



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: November 18, 2014
To: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
From: John Dargle, Jr., Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Subject: **REVISED: Retroactive authorization to apply for one or more Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network grants – ACTION**

POLICY

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC) is seeking retroactive authorization to apply for one or more Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (Root-Pike WIN) grants.

BACKGROUND

The Root-Pike WIN is a non-profit grassroots watershed organization that awards grants to projects that will preserve, promote and protect the Root River and Pike River watersheds. Root-Pike WIN's resource group is currently accepting applications for their 2014-2015 grant cycle. Community-based projects are considered and awards will be made in January 2015. The DPRC would propose a project entitled "Root River Parkway Reforestation" and would request \$10,000. This grant does not require a match by Milwaukee County but the DPRC would propose a \$3,181 in-kind match to be competitive.

The project proposes to remove 6.9 acres of leased parkland from agricultural production and reforest the site to native hardwood trees. This site is the only non-forested gap in what would otherwise be a 122-acre block of contiguous forest directly adjacent to the Root River. Reforestation would remove the application of direct agricultural inputs (fertilizer and pesticides) within the Root River floodplain, significantly improve habitat for forest interior nesting birds and breeding amphibians by eliminating a critical canopy gap, and buffer the Root River as recommended in the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan. In addition, by planting the site to a diversity of native hardwood trees the site will assist in buffering the short and long term degradation of adjacent Root River buffers dominated by green and black ash that are currently experiencing severe declines due to the spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB).

In addition, the DPRC would partner with Franklin High School's ECO Club and environmental science classes to implement the proposed project.



RECOMMENDATION

The Parks Director recommends that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture be authorized to apply for one or more Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (Root-Pike WIN) grants.

Prepared by: Laura Schloesser, Chief of Administration & External Affairs

Recommended by:

Approved by:

Laura Schloesser, Chief of
Administration & External Affairs

John Dargle, Jr., Director

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Sup. Gerry Broderick, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
Sup. Khalif Rainey, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
Sup. Willie Johnson, Jr., Co-Chair, Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee
Sup. David Cullen, Co-Chair, Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee
Sup. Jason Haas, Vice Chair, Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee
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Janelle Jensen, Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee Clerk