

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to grant an 10-year Maintenance Covenant to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) for tree plantings at Menomonee River Parkway. Authorization is also requested for the County Executive and County Clerk to execute all necessary documents for future plantings supported by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Grant, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2024, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) presented an informational report (File No. 24-719) to the Committee on Parks and Culture (P&C), outlining a tree-planting partnership at Kinnickinnic River Parkway involving the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and Milwaukee Riverkeeper (Riverkeeper); and

WHEREAS, MMSD's Reforestation and Wetland Restoration (RWR) Program aims to plant six million trees and restore 4,000 acres of wetlands over ten years in Southeastern Wisconsin, to enhance natural stormwater management and reduce flood risk; and

WHEREAS, Riverkeeper's mission is to protect, improve, and advocate for water quality, wildlife habitat, and sustainable land use in the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic River watersheds; and

WHEREAS, MMSD received funding from the United States Forest Service to support regional reforestation and natural flood management projects, through its RWR Program; and

WHEREAS, DPRC has designated 1.38 acres of turf within the Menomonee River floodplain, at Menomonee River Parkway and West Concordia Avenue in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, for this Green Infrastructure Project (the Project); and

WHEREAS, the Project will involve planting 172 native trees and shrubs by community volunteers, with protections against wildlife damage and species selection guided by Natural Areas, DPRC; and

WHEREAS, the reforestation is expected to sequester approximately 238,160 pounds of carbon dioxide, and intercept over 1,044,212 gallons of stormwater over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of MMSD's grant funding, the Project area must be protected and maintained under a 10-year Maintenance Covenant (the Covenant), to ensure the long-term viability of the Green Infrastructure; and

47 WHEREAS, the Covenant applies only to the designated planting areas, with
48 Milwaukee County retaining land ownership and maintenance responsibility throughout
49 the Covenant term; and
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51 WHEREAS, the Director, DPRC, recommends granting the 10-year Covenant to
52 MMSD in accordance with the grant terms; and
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54 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks and Culture, at its meeting of September 2,
55 2025, recommended adoption of File No. 25-555 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,
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57 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorizes the
58 Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, along with the Department of
59 Administrative Services (DAS), Register of Deeds, Office of Corporation Counsel, and
60 Risk Management, DAS, to prepare, review, approve, execute, amend, and record all
61 necessary documents, contracts, easements, and agreements to grant the Milwaukee
62 Metropolitan Sewerage District the required 10-year Maintenance Covenant (the
63 Covenant) for tree planting at Menomonee River Parkway and West Concordia Avenue,
64 in the City of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin; and
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66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the same departments and officials are
67 authorized to take all necessary actions, including entering Maintenance Covenants
68 and/or Conservation Easements, to support future tree plantings funded by the United
69 States Forest Service grant, including preparing and executing any related
70 documentation; and
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72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Executive and County Clerk are
73 authorized to execute the Covenant, future covenants, and all required supporting
74 documents.
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