

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 12, 2021

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Kegel Alpha Trail Modification

File Type: Informational Report

REQUEST

Kegel Alpha Trail Modification

POLICY

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

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County Parks currently offers over 40 miles of hiking only trails and 15 miles of trails maintained for mountain bike use with hikers allowed. Mangan Woods in the Root River Parkway has hosted both official hike only and official shared mountain bike/hike trails for at least 15 years. The mountain bike portion of the trail is now called the Kegel Alpha Trail. It was the first trail adopted into the mountain bike trail system and has been continuously maintained by Milwaukee Metro Mountain bikers with minimal costs to the County. In 2017, Milwaukee County Parks began evaluating the trails in Mangan Woods to minimize environmental impacts and improve the trail experience. This evaluation determined that redundant trails, an unsafe footbridge, poor signage, and flooding issues were negatively impacting users. The increased flooding of the Root River has made a portion of the largest trail loop unusable for the majority of the mountain biking season for a number of years. When one segment of a trail is closed, the whole trail does not function well, and people may go off trail. To address this, Metro Mountain Bikers and Parks co-developed a trail reroute proposal and followed Parks trail development process including a three-season vegetation review by Natural Areas staff, a public meeting, and Supervisor communication. This proposal was reviewed and altered based on input from Parks Natural Area staff, the public, the local Supervisor, other elected officials, and adjacent residents. The attached trail proposal adjusts the mountain bike loop to higher ground and never goes closer to houses than the existing trail (approximately 130 feet) to address concerns of adjoining neighbors. Other

Milwaukee County Trails go much closer to adjacent residents with minimal issues. Parks believes this trail reroute will continue to allow the currently permitted uses more sustainably while providing recreational and natural experiences to the public, and not creating undue hardship to adjoining residents.

Related File No's:	
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

These projects will allow Milwaukee County to provide a trail system that enhances fiscal health by utilizing volunteers for soft surface trail maintenance and construction (3B).

FISCAL EFFECT

N/A

TERMS

None

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

None

PREPARED BY:

Jessica Wineberg, Trails Coordinator

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Mangan Woods Map

- CC:** David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
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
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB