

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 18, 2022

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 seeking authorization to apply for grant funding from eligible sources for trail projects

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Milwaukee County Parks requests permission to apply for grant funding for the following projects from any eligible funding sources until the projects are funded. Milwaukee County Parks also requests authority to partner with SEWRPC and Milwaukee County Department of Transportation on joint projects that would enhance trails.

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County Parks received approval in File #21-1044 to apply and accept WisDOT Transportation alternatives Program grants for a Trails Network Plan Update and Realignment of Flooded Oak Leaf Trail-Root River Line.

Shortly after the request in File #21-1044 was submitted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) was signed into law. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) includes billions of dollars in competitive funding available to cities, towns, and municipalities across dozens of new and existing programs. Over 25 grant programs are available to local governments, many with trails as an eligible category. Milwaukee County Parks requests flexibility to have project proposals approved for submittal to multiple grant programs to maximize resources brought to the county.

The BIL is creating additional funding to existing grant programs such as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) as well as new grant programs. Parks requests approval to submit the following projects to one or more of these federal programs with a federal funding rate of 80% or more and local match of 20% or less.

Parks requests retroactive approval to submit two additional applications to the Transportation Alternatives Program grant in light of increased program funding from federal legislation:

1. Oak Leaf Trail Access Ramp to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee A new trail access ramp at Hampshire Avenue would provide a much safer and direct connection to the campus of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and the 135-mile Oak Leaf Trail system while also addressing an old tunnel that threatens the existing trail.
2. Oak Leaf Trail Modernization A project to upgrade and repave over 4 miles substandard segments of existing Oak Leaf Trail to ensure ADA compliance and encourage more trail use.

Parks was made aware of the additional funding in the TAP grant cycle due to the infrastructure bill only one week before the grant deadline.

Project	TAP Priority	PEEC Approved TAP	PEEC Approved CMAQ	Amount
Oak Leaf Trail Access Ramp to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	1		7/20/21	\$ 1,631,556
OLT Root River Flood Mitigation at 116th and Morgan	2	12/7/21	7/20/21	\$ 718,294
Trail Network Plan	3	12/7/21		\$ 150,000
Oak Leaf Trail Modernization	4		7/20/21	\$ 2,962,404
TOTAL				\$ 5,462,254
Federal Request (80%)				\$ 4,369,803
Local Match (20%)				\$ 1,092,450

The Parks, Energy & Environment Committed approved File #21-216 authorizing Parks to apply for Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality grant funding which was subsequently not awarded to Milwaukee County Parks.

Often cooperative applications garner better scoring from grant programs. As such Parks also plans to partner with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation to apply for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for trail expansion to address inequities in Oak Leaf Trail access.

Related File No's:	21-614, 21-1044
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	8/9/2022, 1/6/2022

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

These projects will allow Milwaukee County to provide a trail system that supports health equity by applying a racial equity lens to trail development and use 80% grant funding to enhance fiscal health (2A, 2C, 3B).

FISCAL EFFECT

If all projects are awarded, twenty percent of project costs totaling \$1,092,450 will need to be locally funded to leverage up to \$4,369,803 in federal investment.

TERMS

Applications are due January 28th, 2022. TAP projects are capped. A TAP project may not be substituted for another project. TAP projects must commence within four years of the award date.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Jessica Wineberg, Trails Coordinator, Milwaukee County Parks

PREPARED BY:

Jessica Wineberg, Trails Coordinator

Jeremy Lucas, Director of Administration & Planning, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks



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