



## MILWAUKEE COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT Community Support Program Proposal

### PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN PARKS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

#### PROJECT DESIGN

Provide an overview of how the community support project being proposed addresses an urgent community need brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Demonstrate how the project provides a feasible solution to the demonstrated need and is being coordinated with partners. Include any collaboration that will occur during the project. Explain how the proposal falls within Milwaukee County's scope of services. (500-word limit)

**The City of Milwaukee is experiencing an unprecedented wave of gun violence that is impacting our citizens and negatively impacting the fabric of our community. According to the Journal Sentinel's Milwaukee Homicide Database, in all of 2021 there were 201 homicides in the City, 90% of which (181) were the result of gun violence. Only 6 weeks into 2022, there have already been 26 gun-related homicides in the City of Milwaukee. The majority of victims (96% in 2021 and 93% in 2022) are people of color. These incidents occur in every community but are inordinately and inequitably felt in certain neighborhoods of the City of Milwaukee. Milwaukee County Parks are located in many of these neighborhoods and are one of the ways that County services reach the residents of these areas. Incidents of gun violence have been rising in Parks including threats against staff involving guns, destruction of property due to shootings, and murders of park patrons. One Parks Operations unit experienced all three of these examples within a matter of days in the summer of 2021. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an urban design strategy that has been implemented in communities since the 1970s that focuses on addressing issues with the built environment in order to deter criminal activity and improve public safety. This proposal is intended to address aspects of the built environment within Milwaukee County Parks that will improve visibility and access to parks in order to deter gun violence and criminal activity. CPTED relies on the concept that the natural surveillance of a public space is improved by the placement and alignment of physical improvements that will influence the actions of potential criminal actors. This proposal seeks to implement CPTED strategies that are achievable, able to be completed in the timeframe of the grant guidelines and address the areas of highest need in the parks system in order to reduce gun violence. This includes alteration of existing landscaping and the physical elements of parks that limit visibility, the improvement of park lighting to improve visibility, installation of motion sensor lighting controls on buildings, addition of traffic control features such as bollards and gates, removal of berms that limit visibility, and the removal and regrading of vacant facilities. In order to build a higher level of collective impact, Milwaukee County will seek the collaboration of the City of Milwaukee to address CPTED improvements in the neighborhoods and public spaces that are under the City's jurisdiction. This serves to**

improve public safety of County parks and if successful will support the County's mission of becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin.

### **TRACKABLE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Provide an overview of the project's goals, objectives, outcomes, and/or outputs that will be achieved by December 31, 2024. Please ensure that proposed project outcomes align with the Milwaukee County vision to achieve racial equity and eliminate health disparities. (250-word limit)

**The goal of this project is to reduce gun violence in and around Parks by making physical alterations to the built environment within parks. This project will result in a deliverable of the installation of new lighting and physical improvements to parks to improve visibility and public safety. One objective of this proposal is to address visibility issues within parks in the City of Milwaukee that are in neighborhoods identified as Highly Vulnerable in the EVE model (Evaluating Vulnerability and Equity) and CDC's social vulnerability index. The scope of work of this proposal includes 1) Installation of new motion sensor and LED exterior lighting to structures that are within parks, 2) Installation of new traffic control gates and bollards where feasible to restrict nighttime vehicular access, 3) Conversion of light fixtures to LED at additional locations that are not included in other ARPA funding requests (Tiefenthaler, Rose, Smith, Nash, and other parks), 4) Improvement to the visibility at the entrance to Sherman Park with lighting and signage, 5) Removal of plants and landscaping that reduce visibility in problem areas, 6) Removal of berms and regrading of parkland to street level elevations, replacing trees as needed, 7) Demolition of vacant facilities and regrading to improve visibility, 8) Addition of new park lighting. If a successful collaboration can be established with the City of Milwaukee the project's scope and success broadens to include overall reduction of gun violence in targeted neighborhoods.**

### **INVEST IN EQUITY & INTENTIONAL INCLUSION**

Provide an overview of how the proposed project supports historically underserved, marginalized and/or adversely affected groups. Demonstrate how this proposal supports any or all of the County's strategic objectives. If applicable, include how this proposal was informed by community input and builds capacity of community organizations. (500-word limit).

**This project will be targeted to those neighborhoods that are identified as being highly vulnerable in the EVE model. This model specifically proposes that vulnerability be used to inform equitable allocation of resources such as stimulus funds. Gun violence is an issue that affects all Milwaukeeans but it inequitably causes harm to people of color who live in the areas that are the focus of this proposal. If resources are allocated to this proposal it would better align Parks services with Milwaukee County's vision. Reducing gun violence and enhancing public safety is an investment in addressing racial and health equity. This proposal directly supports the following Strategic Focus Areas of the County: 1. C) Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses, 2.a) Determine what, where and how we deliver services based on the resolution of health disparities, 2.c) Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions, 3.a) Invest "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities, 3.b) Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability, 3.c) Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities. A critical component of this proposal will be the ability to leverage City of Milwaukee efforts to perform similar CPTED strategies in the neighborhoods surrounding parks. This would help achieve a level of collective impact that neither the County nor the City would be able to achieve on its own. Milwaukee County Parks will engage with the City of Milwaukee's Office of Violence Prevention and Department of Public Works to plan for a collaborative effort that leverages each other's investment and coordinates improvements.**

Community engagement will occur as part of the partnership with the City, if a collaborative effort can be established then a collaborative engagement strategy would be developed to ensure broad and meaningful citizen participation. If a partnership is not established, Parks will conduct public engagement in collaboration with public safety professionals and the Office on Equity at the County.

### **EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY**

Please describe the research and/or evidence-based studies that informed the development of this strategy. Indicate if the project was developed using strong evidence, moderate evidence, or preliminary evidence. Local program evaluation data may be used as preliminary evidence. (250-word limit)

**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)** is an urban design strategy that has been implemented in communities since the 1970s that focuses on addressing issues with the built environment in order to deter criminal activity and improve public safety. There is strong evidence that in practice these physical improvements not only prevent criminal activity in the immediate area that is the subject of the CPTED improvements, but also that it serves to reduce criminal activity in the broader neighborhood. The EVE Model was created to assist the County with vaccine deployment strategies. The EVE Model proposes that the County consider the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) to inform equitable allocation of resources. This proposal has identified physical improvements to parks that are located in areas identified as having high vulnerability in the EVE model.

### **ARPA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Provide describe the department's experience managing federal funds and contracts to ensure reporting deadlines are met. (250-word limit)

**Milwaukee County Parks has extensive experience implementing projects that are funded with local, State, and Federal sources. Parks is capable of managing the reporting requirements of this proposal including meeting all grant deadlines.**

### **ARPA FUNDS REQUESTED**

Provide the total request amount to be spent between 2022 – 2026. Explain how funds will be incurred and encumbered by December 31, 2024. Include a description of any matching funds/resources. (250-word limit)

**The total budget for this proposal is \$1,149,500. The Project Budget of this proposal is structured as allowances for each type of improvement that will be managed as due diligence is completed at each park. Depending on the site-specific need some flexibility will be necessary to move funds between functional areas as the project moves through design. Many of these improvements can be realized through equipment purchases and work conducted by Parks staff while other improvements will require contracting with outside vendors. The procurement of such vendors would be conducted through a competitive Request for Proposal process. This procurement would be conducted in Q2 2022 with vendors hired by Q4 2022. Traffic control infrastructure is well known to Parks staff as similar installations have occurred in recent years. Commercially available products will be researched and purchased for traffic control by Q3 2022 with installation occurring by the end of 2022. Re-grading parkland to remove berms and improve visibility will be conducted by contracted vendors with oversight from Parks planning staff. A vendor will be procured through a competitive Request for Proposals process and will be hired by Q3 2022. Work will commence in Q2 2023 and be complete by Q4 2023. New signage and lighting in Sherman Park will be designed by Q4 2022 and construction complete by Q3 2023. Vacant and derelict buildings have already been identified and slated for demolition include the skate shelter building in King Park and the**

wading pool in Rose Park. Both structures will be demolished by contracted vendors and regraded to improve visibility into the parks. Work will begin in Q2 2023 and complete by Q4 2023. Milwaukee County Parks has extensive experience working with local construction contractors and can identify many firms to participate in the project construction, including a focus on Targeted Business Enterprises and the prevailing participation standards for County-let construction projects. The Milwaukee Parks Foundation is in a position to contribute funds to this project if it is approved.

## BUDGET

Complete the short-form budget and provide a formula for your calculation by defining the expense item, number of units, and cost per unit for the requested project period. In the table below, outline any matching funds or resources.

Expense Item	Description	Total Cost
<b>Personnel Expenses (including fringe benefits)</b>		
1. Project Management	Project management and construction oversight	\$50,000
<b>Professional Services</b>		
1. Electrical services	Convert light fixtures to LED at additional locations that are not included in other requests (Tiefenthaler, Rose, Smith, Nash, and other parks), Add new park lighting wherever feasible	\$500,000
2. Forestry and landscaping services	Remove plants and landscaping that reduce visibility (Washington service yard)	\$50,000
3. Park regrading and berm removal	Remove berms and regrade parkland to street level elevations, replace trees as needed (West and Southwest borders of King, West border of Tiefenthaler), soil remediation as needed	\$150,000
<b>Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>		
1. Light fixtures and connectivity	Install new motion sensor and LED exterior lighting to structures that are within parks	\$50,000
2. Traffic control infrastructure	Install new traffic control gates and bollards where feasible to restrict nighttime vehicular access	\$50,000
3. Sherman Park signage	Improve visibility at the entrance to Sherman Park with lit signage	\$25,000
4. Facility demolition and regrading	Demolish vacant facilities and regrade to improve visibility (King skate shelter, Rose wader and structure)	\$150,000
5. Public engagement materials	Allocation to support public outreach and education materials	\$20,000
<b>Total Calculations</b>		
<b>Direct Expenses Total</b>		\$1,045,000
<b>Indirect Expenses** (10%)</b>		\$104,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$1,149,500

\*\*10% de minimis indirect cost rate for ARPA projects includes rent/space allocation costs, utilities, support and administrative staff time across County departments, cost of databases and software, etc.

Other Revenue Source(s)	Committed or Available Revenue Amount	Potential Revenue Amount
Milwaukee Parks Foundation	TBD	
<b>Total Other Revenue Amount</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>