

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 18, 2023

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 requesting authorization to apply for and accept State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Grant

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Milwaukee County Parks requesting authorization to apply for and accept State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Grant

POLICY

State statute provides that the County Board may accept donations and grants for any public governmental purpose within the powers of the county.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52 (19)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the Urban Forestry Grant under Wisconsin State Statute 23.097 and Chapter NR 47.

The DNR's Urban Forestry Grant program is designed to support projects and programs that improve a community's capacity to manage its trees. Toward that end, the Parks Department seeks Urban Forestry Grant support to assist with tree purchasing in efforts to mitigate the impact of trees removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer. The program will expand the capacity of Parks' forestry operations by:

- Improving the ability for Parks to replace trees removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer;
- Increasing tree diversity and implementing the department's forestry management plan;
- Promoting Parks' financial sustainability by securing alternative funding sources for tree purchases.

The estimated cost of the project is \$50,000, with a DNR share of \$25,000 and a local match of \$25,000, which will be provided through in-kind staff labor.

In accordance with grant requirements, Milwaukee County Parks identifies the Operations Manager – Land Resource Division as the Authorized Representative to complete the following:

- Sign and submit the grant application;
- Sign a grant agreement between Milwaukee County Parks and the DNR;
- Submit interim and/or final reports to the DNR to satisfy the grant agreement;
- Submit grant reimbursement request to the DNR;
- Sign and submit other required documentation.

Projects may start no earlier than January 1, 2024 and must be completed by December 31, 2024.

Related File No's:	19-778, 14-810
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request aligns to the strategic plan by enhancing the county's fiscal health and sustainability. Parks is looking to be as efficient and creative as possible to fund improvements to existing infrastructure.

FISCAL EFFECT

The grant requires a 50% local match. The match would be provided through in-kind staff labor.

TERMS

Applications are open on an annual basis.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Peter.Bratt@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Peter Bratt, Director of Operations & Skilled Trades, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Note

CC: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, PEEC Chair
Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, PEEC Vice Chair

Felesia Martin, Supervisor District 7, PEEC Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, PEEC Member
Steve Taylor, Supervisor District 17, PEEC Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
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
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB