



**Michael Baird, PE**  
Project Manager  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
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**Milwaukee County Parks**  
9480 Watertown Plank Rd.  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
(414) 257-PARK

September 28, 2023

**RE: Honey Creek Parkway, Oak Leaf Trail  
Section 4(f) Determination  
Wisconsin Avenue Bridge over Honey Creek  
Project ID 2190-10-00/70/71,**

Dear Mr. Baird,

The Milwaukee County Parks Department (Parks) has had the opportunity to coordinate and review the plans of the City of Wauwatosa's proposed construction of the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge over Honey Creek and potential work required along Honey Creek Parkway, including the Oak Leaf Trail which is routed on-street along this segment of Honey Creek Parkway.

Milwaukee County Parks concurs that there are no adverse impacts of the proposed project to county-owned park land in the project area, otherwise known as section 4(f) property.

In addition to a one-on-one meeting held on June 2, 2023, coordination has occurred at numerous times during the design process and continues to be ongoing. Past coordination dates include:

- Meetings with Milwaukee County, MMSD, and the City of Wauwatosa/WisDOT
  - February 7, 2022
  - May 2, 2022
  - August 1, 2022
  - August 29, 2022
  - November 7, 2022
  - May 1, 2023
  - August 7, 2023
- Meetings with Milwaukee County, MMSD, USACE, WDNR, and the City of Wauwatosa/WisDOT
  - October 21, 2022
  - March 24, 2023
  - June 2, 2023
  - August 25, 2023



MilwaukeeCountyParks

[countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com)



As a publicly owned park and recreational resource, Honey Creek Parkway and its associated Oak Leaf Trail are subject to Section 4(f) considerations in accordance with FHWA's Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Further, the Honey Creek Parkway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is subject to consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act.

As shown in the enclosed exhibit provided by the City of Wauwatosa/WisDOT, project construction will temporarily occupy a portion of the parkway system near Wisconsin Avenue and Honey Creek Parkway to replace the existing bridge P-40-776 and raise the Wisconsin Avenue roadway/bridge profile to alleviate flooding. Continuity of the existing pedestrian paths on the west side of Honey Creek will be maintained after horizontal and vertical adjustments to match the raised profile of Wisconsin Avenue.

The proposed project will require temporary occupancy of about 0.78 acres along Honey Creek Parkway (Park) and about 0.85 acres along Honey Creek Parkway (Road) for approximately nine months.

As discussed in our meeting, the City of Wauwatosa/WisDOT will obtain a right-of-entry permit for construction activities from the Milwaukee County Parks Department and will notify Milwaukee County Parks prior to starting construction. Similar to the existing condition, there will be storm sewer discharge pipes located in Honey Creek Parkway, and the City of Wauwatosa has applied for easements with Milwaukee County Parks for future maintenance of these storm sewer pipes by the City. During construction, Honey Creek Parkway (Road) will be closed to through traffic and the Oak Leaf Trail will be temporarily rerouted. Milwaukee County Parks will notify stakeholders and will detour the Oak Leaf Trail from Honey Creek Parkway (Road) to Portland Avenue to 76th Street to Wisconsin Avenue to 79th Street to Mary Ellen Place to Honey Creek Parkway (Road). The City of Wauwatosa/WisDOT will place safety fencing and post signs as necessary to direct users safely around the construction zone. After construction, the City of Wauwatosa/WisDOT will restore the trail to its original location.

At this time, Milwaukee County Parks Department has no objections to the proposed work, including the need for temporary occupancy to complete construction as described above. Our finding is based on the following conditions:

- The land use is of short duration.
- There is no change in ownership of the property.
- The scope of the work affecting the resource is minor.
- There are no temporary or permanent adverse changes to the activities, features, or attributes of the property.
- The land will be fully restored to a condition at least as good as prior to the project.

Access to these areas during construction will require a right-of-entry permit from Milwaukee County. No change of ownership of land will occur and the right-of-entry permit will allow WisDOT's contractor to access County land to complete the required work. A permit application may be accessed at <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Parks/Plan/Get-a-Permit>.



It is understood that these impacts will be minor in nature and that any park property disturbed during construction will be restored to the condition that existed prior to the project.

To summarize, the above referenced project will have only minimal temporary disturbance with no permanent adverse physical impacts, or interfere in any way with the activities, features or attributes of parkland or the trails in this area. Further,

- The land use is of short duration (defined as less than the time needed for the construction of the project).
- There is no change in ownership of the land.
- The scope of the work is minor in nature.
- There are no temporary or permanent adverse changes to the activities, features, or attributes of the property.
- The land will be fully restored to a condition at least as good as prior to the project.

The City of Wauwatosa/WisDOT will follow stipulations from the *Programmatic Agreement Between the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office Regarding Federally Funded Road and Bridge Projects in the Milwaukee County Parks System, Milwaukee County* to mitigate removal of the existing bridge. Given this, and with WisDOT's continued coordination to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts, we agree with the assessment that the project will not affect the historic significance of the parkway.

We agree that the project is acceptable and a desired improvement for the area. Should any of the above conditions change, please contact Therese Gripentrog, [therese.gripentrog@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:therese.gripentrog@milwaukeecountywi.gov) of my staff. We are looking forward to working with the City of Wauwatosa/WisDOT on the project.

Sincerely,

Guy Smith  
Executive Director

Enc: Section 4(f) Impacts Exhibit

cc: Aaron Bubb, Kapur Inc.  
William Wehrley, City of Wauwatosa  
Sarah Toomsen, Milwaukee County Parks  
Jeremy Lucas, Milwaukee County Parks  
Therese Gripentrog, Milwaukee County Parks



