

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 28, 2023

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

From: Guy D. Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to enter into any and all contracts and take all actions necessary to effectuate a \$200,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Kohl Park Wildlife Enhancements - Planning and Design phases in the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern.

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to enter into any and all contracts and take all actions necessary to effectuate a \$200,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Kohl Park Wildlife Enhancements - Planning and Design phases in the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis Stat 59.51(31)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 56
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

In 1987, the Milwaukee Estuary was designated as an AOC under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada – sites along the Great Lakes that contain “hot spots” of pollution and environmental degradation. The presence of impairments in the AOC mean that our communities cannot safely use their waterways for eating, drinking, swimming, fishing and more.

Kohl Park was determined a high priority for wildlife enhancements due to its large size of 266 acres. Kohl Park provides important habitats for many fish and wildlife focal species. Projects in the Scope of Work (SOW) will help with an overall delisting of the Milwaukee Estuary AOC, addressing the “Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations” Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI). The creation of new habitat and the restoration of

existing habitats at Kohl Park will complement other nearby habitat areas, creating a 1,143-acre habitat block, which would be the largest habitat block within the entire Milwaukee Estuary AOC.

The SOW for this project is to conceptualize and plan feasible habitat improvements for Kohl Park through the development of an Ecological Restoration and Management Plan (ERMP) performed by Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas. A contractor will be awarded to turn the ERMP into a Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP) set. The WDNR has provided the County with a commitment for \$200,000 grant agreement to the County to carry out the SOW for the Kohl Park Wildlife Enhancements – Planning and Design project in the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern. The WDNR expects that it will execute the grant with the County by December of 2023.

In order to meet all state and federal deadlines for use of this grant funding and ensure that no funding is lost, the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks is requesting that upon execution of the grant agreement between Milwaukee County and the WDNR for \$200,000 for Kohl Park in the Milwaukee Area of Concern, the Department be granted the authority to prepare, review, approve, and execute all contracts, amendments, agreements, and any other documents, and take all actions required to carry out the SOW that is attached to this file to expend the full grant amount of \$200,000.

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

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

Delisting AOCs often have a positive impact on property values in AOC communities, as well as increased outdoor recreation, commerce, port or shoreline activity, residential development that’s all supported by a healthy and sustainable environment. The use of grant money for this work ensures the fiscal health and sustainability of the County.

FISCAL EFFECT

None. Work is grant funded by WDNR and does not require a match.

TERMS

Work shall commence on effective date of the grant and continue until 11/30/2026. Total fees for contracts will not exceed \$200,000.

Fees will be determined through County processes (e.g., RFP, BID, quotes). Deliverables are specified in the attached SOW.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Natalie Dutack, AOC Program Manager, Milwaukee County Parks
Mackenzie Franz, AOC Project Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

PREPARED BY:

Mackenzie Franz, Area of Concern Project Manager

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Note
Draft Aid Agreement
Scope of Work
EPA General Terms and Conditions

CC:

David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon A. Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, Comm on Parks & Culture Chair
Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, Comm on Parks & Culture Vice Chair
Felesia A. Martin, Supervisor District 7, Comm on Parks & Culture Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, Comm on Parks & Culture Member
Steve F. Taylor, Supervisor District 17, Comm on Parks & Culture 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 R. Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB