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CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: February 17, 2017

To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

From: John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Subject: **Authorization to Apply for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant (ACTION)**

**POLICY**

Request authorization to apply for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant.

**BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is offering Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding for green infrastructure projects that improve water quality at Great Lakes public beaches. Green infrastructure projects refers to installations which, through the use of natural systems or engineered systems mimic natural systems to treat, slow or capture polluted runoff, to reduce the amount or improve the quality of runoff that drains into Great Lakes nearshore areas. Green infrastructure projects that are eligible for funding include porous pavement, bioinfiltration, rain garden, stormwater tree trenches, and constructed wetlands.

The EPA is willing to match dollar-for-dollar any local contribution, up to \$175,000, for green infrastructure installation, including engineering and design.

The DPRC is seeking authorization to submit an EPA GLRI Green Infrastructure grant application for the South Shore Park Waterfront Redevelopment Project. The 1.7 acre beach regularly ranks among the worst in the nation in water quality testing and closures. The DPRC completed a master plan for the redevelopment of the waterfront areas of the park in an effort to better meet the needs of the waterfront users. Redevelopment targets include aging park facilities, failing infrastructure, and outdated design. Green infrastructure features will be integrated into the plan to the fullest extent possible to address near-shore water quality problems and beach closings.



This GLRI grant funding is non-competitive, meaning that it will be awarded if a proposed project is deemed to be eligible. The DPRC has submitted a non-binding narrative statement/letter of interest for the South Shore project and has been approved for further consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the DPRC to apply for EPA GLRI Green Infrastructure funding. Also, authorize the DPRC, Office of Comptroller and Department of Administrative Services to execute an administrative fund transfer to recognize the receipt of revenue and apply it to improvements related to the South Shore Park Waterfront Redevelopment Project to implement awarded EPA GLRI Green Infrastructure funding.

Prepared by: Bill Waldron, Natural Resources Specialist

**Approved by:**



John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Fiscal Note

Attachment 2 – Resolution

**Copy:** Chris Abele, County Executive

Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office

Jason Haas, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Marcelia Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors

Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk

Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller

Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS