



Community Project Request: Park Improvement Project

Applicant Name

James (Jim) Helminski

Applicant Address

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Email

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Organization / Company

Whitnall Park Rotary Foundation

Park Name and Address

Boerner Botanical Gardens

9400 Boerner Drive

Hales Corners, WI 53130

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Title

Rock Garden Improvement Project

Project Overview

This project addresses safety, accessibility and water conservation concerns in the Rock Garden Area. There are three components to the project. Permeable pavers, bridge replacement and a pondless basin water feature. The permeable pavers will be one of the last segments to connect paths throughout the Gardens to be on hard surfaces making it easier for visitors to maneuver on the paths. This is especially important to those with walking difficulties and those with walkers and in wheelchairs. The bridge replacement will be a wider bridge allowing for two wheelchairs to pass each other. It will have higher railings for safety and also be more durable to handle small equipment needs. The water feature will capture and recirculate the fountain and waterfall water on a daily basis. This will lessen the burden on the deep well pump and keep the water onsite and not run down to the lagoons.

Intended Users

The intended users are the many visitors from all around the world that come to see The Botanical Gardens. It is intended to make those with walking disabilities and wheelchairs users have a much easier time maneuvering throughout the Gardens. It will also provide a peaceful sound of water to those with vision disabilities to still enjoy the Gardens in another aspect.

Timelines

We would like to see this project begin in the Spring of 2020 and completed before September 1, 2020. The three components will need to be coordinated closely to maintain the timeline.

Committed Partners

Whitnall Park Rotary Foundation

Letters of support from any committed partners

supportletter.pdf

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Project Budget

Whitnall Park Rotary Foundation will pay for half of the project budget at \$48,030.74 and apply for a Parks matching grant. Please see the attached budget.

Project Budget (upload)

Pondless basin project.pdf

BBG Rock Garden Paver Path.pdf

Copy of Boerner Bridge Estimate 6-2019.xls

budget.xlsx

Funding Sources

Whitnall Park Rotary Foundation funds are from fundraisers and brick sales. Whitnall Park Rotary Foundation will also be applying for Parks Matching Funds to complete the three aspects of the project.

Funding Commitments

finacials.pdf

Revenue Generation

This project will indirectly effect revenue generation indirectly. It will be a feature of the Gardens to link the paths for those with a hard time moving on gravel. Visitors will now be able to pass two wheelchairs on the bridge and stay on a hard surface. The addition of the pond less basin water feature will tell the story of water conservation.

Supporting Parks Mission

Milwaukee County Parks' Mission -

To steward a thriving park system that positively impacts every Milwaukee County park visitor.

Milwaukee County Parks' Vision -

Milwaukee County Parks fosters dynamic connections through our lands and community, heightens the quality of life in the county, and leads as a model park system.

Supporting Parks' Mission

This fully supports the Parks mission as it positively impacts the daily visitor by allowing a more safe and accessible pathway system through out the Gardens. It will also teach people about water conservation as well being a beautiful relaxing area to enjoy.

Health and Safety

This project will effect the safety of those walking and visiting the Gardens. Surfaces will connect a hard asphalt surface to a hard permeable paver surface. The paths will be even and match up where as now you step onto traffic bond (TB) and after heavy rains the TB erodes and creates uneven surfaces where

someone with difficulties could trip and fall. we will also be building an outcropping of rock between the bridge towards the bog walk to keep people from going off the path as the side slopes quite sharply.

Recreation

This will assist in recreation walking for the visitors to the Gardens. The expanded bridge allows for people to pass each other. The water feature will add a calming sound to those who walk or those looking for a respite area to relax.

Natural Resource Preservation

The addition of the water feature is important for preserving and keeping more water on site. Presently, the waterfall is kept at a trickle. The source of the water is from the deep well. Having a heavier flow would keep the side channels filled and keep water moving. The water recirculation is a key component to the effort to conserve water on site. This new pondless basin will allow for wildlife, birds and amphibians to have another source of water. The addition of permeable paver will also keep more rainwater on site to replenish the groundwater system.

Design and Aesthetics

The design of this project is to look like a continuous extension of the original design of the rock garden. The water feature will use weathered limestone and will age to blend in with the existing rock. There will be an addition of small waterfalls to be installed near the bridge. Water is such a strong attraction to people and the running water will add a soothing sound to all those who visit.

Design - Renderings

RG pondlessbasin rendering2.jpeg

Benefit to the Public

This project will extend and enhance the visitor experience while at the Gardens. It will increase accessibility for ADA. It will also be aesthetically pleasing and add photo ops for the public.

Innovation

This project will provide a storm water management system using Best Management Practices. It will capture the storm water from the rock garden runoff and capture in the pondless basin system and recirculate it back to the top of the waterfall. Currently well water is used to supply the waterfall and it is kept at a trickle so not to stress the deep well pumps.

This will be similar to our rain harvesting system and keep us as a leader in storm water management.

Maintenance and Operations

Milwaukee County Parks relies on partnerships to improve, maintain, and operate park improvements. Milwaukee County's preference is to not take on any new maintenance responsibilities.

Maintenance Plan

County staff will inspect and maintain. If repairs need to be made, Whitnall Park Rotary maintains a fund from brick sales for this purpose.

County Deferred Maintenance

The current bridge, which was built by the Whitnall Park Rotary in 2000 is in need of repair. Parks carpenters have replaced boards over the last couple of years. The posts also need attention as they are starting to rot from the top. Caps have been added over the last couple of years to prevent more decay.

Operations

Garden Staff will inspect daily the pavers, bridge and water feature throughout the season. They will report any concerns and repairs needed to the Garden Director. Garden Director will then take appropriate

action. Garden Director will also work with marketing to promote the project and long term assets to the Gardens and visitors. Whitnall Park Rotary will also promote project to the community whenever possible. The bridge improvement will allow accessibility for parks staff, in particular forestry, to an area that is inaccessible to them at the moment.

Upload additional project drawings, site plans, map, or photos here (optional)

sPark Funding Application

sPark (formerly known as the Parks Amenities Matching Fund) allows individuals or groups to request grants to match funding for projects to improve Milwaukee County Parks and park facilities. Applications for grant funds will be accepted at any time and reviewed biannually.



If you have any questions please contact Parks Fund Development team at 414-257-8043

Name

James (Jim) Helminski

Name of Organization

Whitnall Park Rotary Foundation

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Project Title

Rock Garden Improvement Project

Funding Requested from sPARK

\$48,030.74

Total Project Cost

\$96,061.48

Has your project been approved through the Community Project Request (CPR) process?

CPR application is being submitted during current application period

1. Fundraising Efforts

The Whitnall Park Rotary Foundation raises money through brick sales and other fundraiser. Half of the project total cost have already been raised. At this time there are no other funding sources available.

2. Return on Investment

This project will indirectly effect revenue generation. It will be a feature of the Gardens to link the hard surface paths. This will make it easier to maneuver for those with disabilities. It will also be showing Best Management Practices for water conservation in the Gardens. The expanded bridge will allow for small vehicles to get to areas of the Gardens that are inaccessible at the moment in order to do tree work. This fully supports the Parks mission as it positively impacts the daily visitor by allowing a more safe and accessible pathway system throughout the Gardens. These added features are designed to increase attendance and positively increase the visitor experience.

Check ONE:

I verify that all the information included in this application is accurate and that additional information may be needed before funding can be awarded.

Signature

Today's Date

8/8/2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jim Helmski", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Title/Position

Jim Helmski, President, Whitnall Rotary
Foundation

Upload any additional documents (optional)