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## July Board Cycle

## Milwaukee County Parks

9480 Watertown Plank Rd.

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 257-PARK

Date: June 17, 2020

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: **We Care Crew Receives Grant to Assist in COVID-19 Relief and Resourcing (INFO)**

### Issue

Milwaukee County Parks, the Office on African American Affairs, and other community partners are collaborating to form the *We Care Crew* to bring resources and support to the community this summer.

### Background

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our Milwaukee County Parks have remained a vital community resource providing physical and mental health benefits for our residents. A growing group of community partners, including representatives from Milwaukee County Parks, the Office on African American Affairs, the Sheriff's Office, along with City Police Districts, City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention, Safe and Sound, and several other community partners have joined together to form the We Care Crew (WCC). WCC is a collaboration of partners working to share resources, information, and messaging related to COVID-19 with community. The WCC will also focus on community resourcing efforts such as community bike drives and will have an on the ground presence in Parks through volunteers who will bring COVID-19 resources bags directly to residents this summer. The WCC will focus on a dozen park locations including our two community centers at King and Kosciuszko Parks.

As the summer continues to evolve, we know that much of the typical community programming and events available to resident across the County will not proceed as usual. As such, we expect residents will continue to use our parks heavily this summer despite the lack of amenities available. We know it is crucial to deliver important health information about COVID-19, provide resources and support, and encourage socially distanced activities and alternatives this summer. We also acknowledge the tensions between law enforcement and residents. The WCC has developed materials for park rangers and local law enforcement about potential cultural differences across different communities in Milwaukee.



Serving as community ambassadors and certified credible messengers, members of the We Care Crew can also work alongside park rangers or law enforcement to help deliver information and resources about COVID-19.

To further support this effort, Milwaukee County Parks recently applied for and was awarded a \$20,000 grant through the Green Bay Packers Give Back COVID-19 Community Relief Fund. The grant will support the creation and deployment of 2,500 resource bags, called "We Car Bags," which will include healthy snacks, personal protective equipment such as masks, COVID-19 information, and community resources available to support residents. The grant does not require a financial or in-kind match and does not impact the County budget.

### Recommendation

This report is for informational purposes, no action is requested at this time.

Prepared By: Lindsay Frost, Engagement Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

### Copy

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