



# Milwaukee County

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 11-23, **Version:** 1

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From the Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, requesting authorization to submit a proposal for, and accept, if granted, funding through the U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Redesign Competitive Allocation RFP FY 2011 for the naturalization of selected DPRC parkland.

### **POLICY**

The Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC) is requesting authorization to submit a proposal for, and accept if granted, a U.S. Forest Service grant which would enable DPRC to expand its reforestation efforts at various parks throughout the County.

### **BACKGROUND**

In the Milwaukee County 2011 Capital Budget, DPRC has been allocated \$61,000 to convert approximately 20 acres of parkland from mowed grass to native trees and shrubs (*#WP 186 - Parks Naturalization*). The primary goal of this budget item is to restore portions of DPRC property to native habitat in order to reduce the costs associated with maintaining 15,000 acres of parkland.

DPRC Staff has been informed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) that the project may be implemented in such a way that it can be used to take advantage of a 1:1 matching U.S. Forest Service grant. Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service State & Private Forestry Redesign Competitive Allocation RFP FY 2011, WDNR is eligible to submit or authorize others to submit proposals for projects that address high-priority issues or landscapes as identified in Wisconsin's "2010 Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy". Two of those issues or landscapes, Forest Fragmentation and Forest Composition and Structure, will be addressed as part of the implementation of the Parks Naturalization Project. Therefore, DPRC is proposing to use \$60,000 of the amount allocated in *WP 186 - Parks Naturalization* to capture an additional \$60,000 from a U.S. Forest Service grant, enabling the department to double the amount of land initially proposed for naturalization.

In addition to reducing the amount of parkland requiring mowing, the planting of native woodland tree and shrub species at selected DPRC sites around the County would:

- Reverse the fragmentation of forests on DPRC land
- Expand the canopy cover and increase the species diversification of plant species within that canopy
- Enhance wildlife dispersion corridors between existing Milwaukee County Park System forests
- Expand habitat for interior nesting birds, threatened amphibians, and other woodland wildlife species
- Increase low impact recreational opportunities such as walking and nature observation
- Attenuate flood waters
- Improve water quality

### **RECOMMENDATION**

DPRC respectfully requests authorization to submit a proposal for, and accept if granted, funding through the U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Redesign Competitive Allocation RFP FY 2011 for the naturalization of selected DPRC parkland. DPRC would be authorized to use \$60,000 from the *WP186 - Parks Naturalization* account as the local match for the grant to capture an additional \$60,000 in U.S. Forest Service funds.

Prepared by: Bill Waldron, Natural Resources Specialist, DPRC

**Recommended by:**

**Approved by:**

James Keegan, Chief of Administration  
and External Affairs

Sue Black, Parks Director

cc: County Executive Lee Holloway  
E. Marie Broussard, Deputy Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Terrence Cooley, Chief of Staff, County Board  
Renee Booker, Director, DAS  
John Ruggini, Assistant Fiscal & Budget Administrator, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS  
Supv. Joe Sanfelippo, Vice-Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee  
Sarah Jankowski, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS  
Julie Esch, Research Analyst, County Board  
Linda Durham, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Clerk