

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

ITEM 22, FILE 001467

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

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File # 001467 is a resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Public Works to enter into an agreement with Greening Milwaukee for the purpose of planting trees and expanding green spaces at Milwaukee Public Schools by the Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works.

Background and Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes the Commissioner of Public Works to enter into an agreement with Greening Milwaukee to plant trees and expand green spaces at Milwaukee Public Schools. The program continues a partnership between the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the Forestry Division to replace some of the asphalt with trees in and around MPS playgrounds, offering a more inviting environment free from hard surfaces and extreme temperatures.
2. In 2000, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provided \$21,900 in grant funding. In addition, the 2000 Budget allocated \$20,000 in the capital budget for a total of approximately \$40,000 to purchase trees.
3. The Forestry Division sent letters to MPS schools inviting them to participate in the program. Over 80 MPS schools agreed to participate in the program over the next four years. In the partnership, MPS has agreed to remove asphalt from the playground surface of the participating schools. In 2000, 336 trees were planted in spring or fall at 21 schools. The schedule for the next three years include:

<i>Year</i>	<i># of Schools</i>	<i># of Trees</i>
2001	22	345
2002	19	355
2003	22	234

4. After the asphalt is removed and sites are readied, planting takes place. The trees are planted by volunteers – science teachers, community school boards, and children. The Forestry Division will provide coordination and technical expertise. A steering committee was established to determine the details of the program.
5. The department evaluated the feasibility of corporate and foundation contributions. Greening Milwaukee is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization created to facilitate expansion of the urban forest. The organization has been a partner of the City of Milwaukee in Greening Milwaukee Schools and has solicited funds for the program from private donors through its “Tree Gift” program.
6. Due to multiple funding sources for the Greening Milwaukee Schools initiative and the need for coordination with several governmental and non-governmental organizations, Greening Milwaukee would be appropriate to facilitate implementation of the program.

Fiscal Impact

1. The 2001 Budget provided \$25,000 in the capital budget for this project. Through an amendment, an additional \$25,000 was added to the capital budget for a total of \$50,000 in funding. This resolution does not have a fiscal impact.

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LRB-Fiscal Review Section
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