

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

**MAY 20, 2003 AGENDA
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 9, FILE 030205
Emma J. Stamps**

File 030205 is a resolution authorizing the application for a grant under the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Local Assistance Program for the purpose of constructing a riverwalk connection between the existing Downtown Riverwalk system and the developing Historic Third Ward Riverwalk. (DPW)

Background and Discussion

1. To date, this file does not include copies of the grant application or grant operating budgets for LRB review and analysis. Therefore, histories on this grant were researched from a handbook available on the Wisconsin DNR website <http://www.dnr.wisconsin.gov>.
2. The new Stewardship Program is a \$60 million per year umbrella for a number of separate subprograms, each with its own goals, priorities, and criteria related to conservation and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.
3. Up to \$8 million a year for ten years is allocated to the local assistance grant programs. Currently these funds are allocated 50% to Acquisition & Development of Local Parks, 20% to Urban Rivers, 20% to Urban Green Space, and 10% to Acquisition of Development Rights.
4. The local assistance grant subprogram provides funding for the acquisition of land (including rights to land) and development of recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.
5. The website list of significant Stewardship Local Assistance Programs grant characteristics include the following:
 - Application deadline is May 1, 2003
 - The State expects to rank and rate application in June 2003
 - Based on availability of funds, the awards are expected after July 2003
 - No work can be started or land acquired until an agreement is signed by the DNR
 - If a “letter of retroactivity” is not granted on acquisition projects where purchase of the property occurred before receiving the grant, those grant applications are voided
 - All grant covers up to 50% of eligible project costs. The City must match the award.
 - The website also lists eligible sources of local share as cash (can be donated by a third party), land donated by a third party (subject to limitations), grants or contributions from private individuals, foundations, organizations or business, and donated volunteer labor, services, materials, and equipment rental.

Fiscal Impact

This file imposes no fiscal impact. Future legislation is required to authorize acceptance and funding of any grant monies awarded from this application.

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LRB-Fiscal Review
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