

GRANT ANALYSIS FORM OPERATING & CAPITAL GRANT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

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Category of Request

☒

New Grant

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Grant Continuation

Previous Council File No. _____

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Change in Previously Approved Grant

Previous Council File No. _____

Project/Program Title: B-Line Park on the Beerline TrailGrantor Agency: Department of Natural ResourcesGrant Application Date: 4/30/2025Anticipated Award Date: September or October 2025

1. Description of Grant Project/Program (Include Target Locations and Populations):

- The B-Line Park on the Beerline Trail is a visionary project to create a linear park designed to sustain and enrich the lives of residents in Milwaukee's Harambee and Riverwest neighborhoods and connect to regional opportunities. The site is City-owned, acquired in 2015. The purpose of this grant application is to receive the funds to construct the first "block" of five that are proposed, as well as an entrance/gateway component on the south end of the park site. This first block (Block 3) will be constructed at the new entry point into the linear park space and a new trail head to the Beerline Trail at Vienna Avenue, in addition to the primary entrance into the park from Richards Street, north of Keefe Avenue (block 5).
- The B-Line Park on the Beerline Trail is designed to offer a variety of amenities that cater to the wide-ranging needs and interests of Milwaukee residents, particularly those in the Harambee and Riverwest neighborhoods, but also regionally as the trail network expands. There is a need for more recreational amenities and parks along the trail system on the north side of the city. The park will be fully open to the public with a focus on walking, running, biking, play, and community engagement. The Beerline Trail runs through the proposed B-Line Park. This regional trail connectivity is guided by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, which is overseeing the expansion of the Route of the Badger—a network that will ultimately link over 35 neighborhoods. A newly constructed tunnel under I-43, funded by the Wisconsin DOT, will provide a safe and direct passage for pedestrians and cyclists previously separated by the expressway. Additionally, the park will be linked to an extended 3.5-mile trail connection leading northwest to the future 30th Street Corridor Trail. This expansion, along with connections to the Hank Aaron State Trail, will create a 17-mile loop around Milwaukee, further improving accessibility.
- The proposed park will serve a wide variety of area residents, including youth, families, older adults, disabled (park will be ADA-compliant), and low-income. Based on data from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates, 71.5% of Harambee neighborhood residents identify as Black or African American alone, which is greater than the percentage for the city of Milwaukee as a whole (38.1%). 34.2% of Harambee neighborhood residents live in households with incomes below the poverty line. Approximately 30.4% of households in the Harambee neighborhood do not have access to a vehicle. The median household income in the Harambee neighborhood is \$31,366, less than the median household income for the city of Milwaukee as a whole (\$49,733). According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the CDC's PLACES Health data and the City of Milwaukee, Harambee residents have the highest prevalence of asthma in the city of Milwaukee at 15.2%. Residents also have the highest obesity rates at 48.2%. Mental Health reporting is some of the highest in the city at 19.3 to 23.1% reporting poor mental health.

2. Relationship to City-Wide Strategic Goals and Departmental Objectives:

- The project is identified for implementation in the City of Milwaukee's Gathering Spaces Feasibility Study (2022) on page 23 to complement additional projects along the Beerline Trail identified on pages 6 and 10.
- The project is also identified in the City of Milwaukee's approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, (2022) on pages 2-11, 13, 80-83, 86-88, 100 & 113. The project supports the goals to ensure that all residents have access to outdoor recreation spaces in the city of Milwaukee, continue collaborating with neighborhoods in the improvement and programming of local outdoor recreation spaces, identify methods to improve efficiency and sustainability in park redevelopment and maintenance, and to expand and diversify additional funding sources for outdoor recreational spaces. <https://city.milwaukee.gov/DCD/Planning/PlansStudies/Plans/Public-Outdoor-Recreation-Plan>.
- The project is the focus of the City-supported Beerline Trail Equitable Implementation Plan (2019).

3. Need for Grant Funds and Impact on Other Departmental Operations (Applies only to Programs):

- N/A

6/15/04

4. Results Measurement/Progress Report (Applies only to Programs):

- N/A

5. Grant Period, Timetable and Program Phase-Out Plan:

- Grant decisions anticipated fall 2025.
- Anticipated start date: 2/1/2026
- Anticipated completion date: 7/31/2027

6. Provide a list of Subgrantees:

- Riverworks Development Corporation

7. If Possible, complete Grant Budget Form and attach to back.

- See Budget attachment.