

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: _____250409_____

This resolution authorizes the Department of City Development to apply for and accept a State of Wisconsin outdoor recreation grant to make improvements to the B-Line Park on the Beerline Trail, located 3521R N. Richards Street, where the Beerline Trail and Vienna Avenue intersect, between N. Richards Street/ E. Keefe Avenue and Capitol Drive in the 6th Aldermanic District.

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

This grant would fund improvements to recreational access in an area underserved by public parks and play spaces. 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 opportunity for more destinations through 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.

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

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.

4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

The proposed construction of the B-Line Park on the Beerline Trail reflects a community vision to increase recreational space and for continued redevelopment of a former railyard and brownfield. The plan was created with input and direction from local community residents, stakeholders, and elected officials including: residents of Harambee and Riverwest, Riverworks Development Corporation, City of Milwaukee DCD and DPW, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Grant, Bader Philanthropy, Greater Milwaukee Committee, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Route of the Badger, Rails to Trails, East Capiol Business Improvement District, and additional area stakeholders.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

Ongoing engagement and community programming is planned. Implementation is unfolding in accordance of the community planning for the park that has been underway since 2014. The City took ownership of the site in 2015 to begin implementation, beginning with the brownfield cap and extension of the Beerline Trail through the site.

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

The City maintains a memorandum of understanding with Riverworks to maintain and program the space, while also allowing additional community groups and residents to utilize the space for events and programming. Neighborhood input has been integrated into the planning, programming, and will be included in the final design for the phased park implementation. The Friends of the Beerline have also been involved in the monthly team meetings regarding the project.

Name: Sam Leichtling

Signature: Sam Leichtling

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