City of Milwaukee

Equity Impact Statement

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution.

DPW-Forestry Services is seeking funding under the 2025 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Regular Grant to engage the implementation phase of the section's 2022 Public Engagement Campaign funded through the Urban Forestry Fund. The implementation phase would seek to plant trees on owner-occupied properties in Milwaukee's most disadvantaged neighborhoods as assessed by the Section's equity data model.

A third-party entity would solicit program participation within Milwaukee's highest need neighborhoods. Owner-occupied homeowners would then partner with Forestry Services to determine the appropriate number and species of trees to be planted on their property.

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

This proposal's equity impacts would be significant as all work will be conducted in disadvantaged census tracts to redress urban tree canopy and ecological disparities. The program will use equity priority scoring to determine work site locations and the order in which they are worked. The program's scoring formula focuses work in the very highest need areas to most effectively address urban tree canopy inequities.

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

Multiple minority and marginalized groups will be impacted positively by this program as the equity prioritization model prioritizes census tracts whose residents are persons of color, earn under 200% of poverty, and are housing burdened. Additionally, the prioritization model prioritizes census tracts that are most susceptible to climate change, flooding, and have low urban tree canopy.
This proposal directs all monies to bolster the urban tree canopies and ecological benefits in these areas.

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

Communities would be engaged in multiple ways. Communities would be engaged by a contracted third-party entity to enroll in the program. This engagement would include an education component on the benefits and maintenance of trees.

Communities would also be engaged by partnering with Forestry Services in determining the appropriate number and species of trees to be planted on their property.

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

The anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented and evaluated by the number of trees planted, and the urban tree canopy and ecological benefits realized within the designated census tracts.

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

NA

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Signature: Randy Krouse

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