

COMMISSION FILE NO: 26-085-7 **DATE INTRODUCED:** July 13, 2026

INTRODUCED BY: Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

RELATING TO: Milwaukee Public Schools Green Schoolyards Redevelopment Program
2026 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Funding Agreements,
G98024P40, G98024P41, G98024P42, G98024P43, and G98024P44

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize the Executive Director to execute Contracts G98024P40, G98024P41, G98024P42, G98024P43, and G98024P44, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) Green Schoolyards Cohort 8 Funding Agreements, with MPS and the City of Milwaukee (City) in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.

MPS Green Schools Cohort 8 is set to receive funding from the 2026 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program (GIPP), in addition to its 2025 GIPP award. Due to budget cuts, annual Green Solutions funding was reduced from \$5 million to \$2.5 million in 2025, limiting Milwaukee's ability to fund both MPS and City projects. To address this, MPS was recommended to receive \$140,000 per school in the 2026 GIPP funding. MPS schools included in Cohort 8 are Cass Street, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Waldo Emerson, French Immersion, and Trowbridge.

Looking ahead, future MPS Green Schools cohorts will be funded through the newly Commission-approved Milwaukee Green Schools Funding Program, G98035, which will support the design and construction of green schoolyards. Cohort 8, as identified above, marks the final group that was to receive funding from both Green Solutions and GIPP. All Cohort 8 schools will complete construction by December 31, 2027.

The funding agreement among the District, MPS, and the City exemplifies a strong and collaborative intergovernmental agreement. The implementation of these projects will produce measurable economic and capacity development benefits to the local community.

The following describes each proposed project.

ATTACHMENTS: **BACKGROUND** ☐ **KEY ISSUES** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☒
FISCAL NOTE ☒ **S/W/MBE** ☐ **OTHER** ☐ _____

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COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Milwaukee Public Schools Green Schoolyards Redevelopment Program 2026 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Funding Agreements, G98024P40, G98024P41, G98024P42, G98024P43, and G98024P44

MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Cass Street School – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of MPS Cass Street School (G98024P40)

Cass Street School is located on Milwaukee's Lower East Side, just south of Brady Street, within walking distance of museums and cultural attractions. The school integrates science, technology, engineering, art, math, and mindfulness to equip students for success in high school and beyond. Large areas of asphalt on the schoolyard will be removed to make way for more porous ground cover/green infrastructure (GI). The proposed GI on the schoolyard also offers a unique opportunity to support the academic and social/emotional wellbeing of students and community members around the publicly accessible school.

Location: 1647 N. Cass Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Projected GI Capture Capacity: 200,655 gallons

GI Strategies: Porous pavement, cisterns, stormwater trees, bioswales, and pavement removal.

MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of MPS Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School (G98024P41)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School is located in Milwaukee's Harambee neighborhood and offers families an African American Immersion environment that focuses on the history and culture of African Americans while drawing upon the strengths of the scholars. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School's conceptual plan calls for removing approximately 33,200 square feet of asphalt and replacing it with new green space and mixed-use recreation and educational areas. The design includes three outdoor classrooms and gathering areas, bioswales, and the addition of 80 stormwater trees. The inclusion of a variety of native plantings allows for unique spaces on the schoolyard that can represent natural Wisconsin ecosystems, complete with student created signage.

Location: 3275 N. 3rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Projected GI Capture Capacity: 173,940 gallons

GI Strategies: Cisterns, stormwater trees, bioswales, and pavement removal.

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Milwaukee Public Schools Green Schoolyards Redevelopment Program 2026 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Funding Agreements, G98024P40, G98024P41, G98024P42, G98024P43, and G98024P44

MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Milwaukee French Immersion School – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of Milwaukee French Immersion School (G98024P42)

Milwaukee French Immersion School (MFIS) is a four-year-old kindergarten through fifth grade elementary school founded in 1985 by MPS. MFIS offers an educational experience focused on bilingualism and global citizenship. The redevelopment project will transform the current asphalt heavy playground into a nature inspired landscape, enhancing urban biodiversity and creating a vibrant, sustainable schoolyard. This green space will serve as a destination for both students and the wider community, offering outdoor learning opportunities and fostering environmental stewardship. By involving families and community members, the project seeks to create an outdoor environment that is welcoming to all and prepares students to be future stewards of the environment.

Location: 2630 N. 52nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Projected GI Capture Capacity: 167,660

GI Strategies: Porous pavement, cisterns, stormwater trees, bioswales, and pavement removal.

MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Trowbridge School of Great Lakes Studies – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of MPS Trowbridge School of Great Lakes Studies (G98024P43)

Trowbridge Street School of Great Lakes Studies, located just 2.5 blocks from Lake Michigan, integrates ecology, Great Lakes, and freshwater studies into its curriculum. The school offers hands-on learning experiences through its science and hydroponics lab, butterfly garden, and perennial rain garden. Partnerships with local organizations, such as the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences and the United States Coast Guard, further enrich students' science education, extending their learning beyond the classroom. This renovation project will remove a significant amount of impervious asphalt pavement to make room for a variety of GI types to help manage water where it falls.

Location: 1943 E. Trowbridge Street, Milwaukee, WI 53207

Projected GI Capture Capacity: 163,625 gallons

GI Strategies: Bioswales.

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Milwaukee Public Schools Green Schoolyards Redevelopment Program 2026 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Funding Agreements, G98024P40, G98024P41, G98024P42, G98024P43, and G98024P44

MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Ralph Waldo Emerson School – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of MPS on behalf of Ralph Waldo Emerson School (G98024P44)

Ralph Waldo Emerson School is a culturally diverse school, located on Milwaukee's northwest side near Timmerman Airport. The school serves students of all abilities from kindergarten through fifth grade. The green schoolyard provides rich science, technology, engineering, and math connections across grade levels, offering vibrant, living classrooms that foster hands-on learning and engage students' curiosity. This renovation project will create pollinator habitats, manage stormwater through multiple GI strategies, and offer unique learning spaces.

Location: 9025 W. Lawrence Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53225

Projected GI Capture Capacity: 132,180 gallons

GI Strategies: Porous pavement, cisterns, rain barrels, bioswales, stormwater trees, and pavement removal.

School	2025 GIPP Award Amount	2026 GIPP Award Amount
MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Cass Street School	\$383,186	\$140,000
MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School	\$329,555	\$140,000
MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Milwaukee French Immersion School	\$320,325	\$140,000
MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Trowbridge School of Great Lakes Studies	\$313,704	\$140,000
MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Ralph Waldo Emerson School	\$246,693	\$140,000
Total	\$1,593,463	\$700,000

RESOLUTION

Milwaukee Public Schools Green Schoolyards Redevelopment Program 2026 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Funding Agreements, G98024P40, G98024P41, G98024P42, G98024P43, and G98024P44

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to execute Milwaukee Public Schools Green Schoolyards Redevelopment Program 2026 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Funding Agreements G98024P40, G98024P41, G98024P42, G98024P43, and G98024P44 in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.